

**MAXWELL IN MANILA**

Leadership expert and author John Maxwell arrives in Manila to conduct seminars at the Araneta Coliseum and the PICC. Some 15,000 people are expected to attend the first offering of the Inquirer Executive Seminar Series, PLDT and Salt Light Ventures.

Sports / A25

Archers shoot down Eagles, gain Final Four edge

World / A10

Howard won't bow to Iraqi militants

Business / B1

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, September 15, 2004 ★ 68 pages 7 sections vol. 19 no. 280 P18

Napocor chief quits, leaves firm bleeding



FIGUEROA: 'Personal deficit'



MURGA: Wish to retire granted

Senators ask other gov't execs to resign

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PRESIDENT of National Power Corp., the biggest money-losing government-owned and controlled corporation, quit yesterday amid calls in the Senate to fire heads of financially troubled GOCCs which had caused the public sector deficit to widen.

The resignation of Napocor president Roger Murga was announced in Malacañang less than 24 hours after National Treasurer Mina Figueroa's offer to quit was made public.

President Macapagal-Arroyo granted Murga's wish to retire but prevailed on him to stay up to Dec. 31, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said after a Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Murga turned 70 on Aug. 19 and had been wanting to retire since June, according to Perez. The energy secretary said the President was "extremely adamant [not] to oblige" Murga's request to quit three months ago but the Napocor president reiterated this during his 70th birthday.

Napocor has lost more than P140 billion over the past six years and is expected to further lose P114 billion this year. Its P1.3-trillion debt as of last year accounted for 42 percent of the national government debt.

Senators yesterday called on ranking government officials, particularly the economic managers who had mismanaged the economy, to resign en masse if they could not be trusted to manage the economy better.

She noted that it was impossible for her salary to be raised because of the Salary Standardization Law.

NATL/A8

NAPOCOR/A8

Nat'l treasurer left because of low pay

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michelle V. Remo, Business

SHE JUST wanted a higher paying job and nothing else.

Mina Figueroa yesterday told senators that it was her "personal deficit" problem that had led her to resign as the country's national treasurer.

Attending as a resource person at a Senate briefing on the proposed 2005 national budget, Figueroa denied she was resigning because of the government's fiscal problem.

"The ship has not sunk yet. My resignation is not because of any-

thing else but only because I have to think of my own finances," Figueroa told reporters later. Her resignation takes effect on Oct. 15.

While the national treasurer is still very much single, her savings have dried up because of her measly salary as a government official.

Figueroa refused to reveal her monthly salary. "Don't ask, baka mayayak kayo (you might weep)," she said, smiling.

She noted that it was impossible for her salary to be raised because of the Salary Standardization Law.

NATL/A8

NAPOCOR/A8

GOCC execs get P5M to P9M in pay, Boncodin tells senators

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michelle V. Remo

THE SALARIES were so big that Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. couldn't help but note that one of them earned an annual income equivalent to the combined yearly earnings of three of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic managers.

The Senate finance committee, at a hearing yesterday on the proposed 2005 national budget, asked

for—and got—from officials the list of salaries and allowances that heads of government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) brought home per year.

The list showed that, for 2002, the top 10 GOCC heads with the fattest annual incomes were split between officials of Philippine National Oil Co. and Development Bank of the Philippines. Their incomes ranged from P5 million to P9 million.

Then PNOC-Energy Development

Corp. chair and president Sergio Apostol topped the list, with total salaries and allowances amounting to P9.2 million in 2002.

Trailing him were DBP chief operating officer Edgardo Garcia (P7.4 million); PNOC president and CEO Rufino Bomasang (P6.1M); DBP senior vice president Victor Villar (P6M); PNOC chair and CEO Thelmo Cunanan (P6M); DBP SEVP Panzer Tumangan (P5.9M); DBP EVP Elizabeth

GOC/C/A13

Caballia acknowledged that it was a tall order for the ordinary citizen. "[This] needs a conversion of heart ... a revival of faith, a belief in everyone's capacity for good," and, considering what had made it necessary in the first place, he said, "a conviction that one's inherent goodness is not lost even when one makes a blunder or mistake, commits a crime, is

BISHOP/A22

said the three-page pastoral letter, which is being distributed this week in Davao.

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BISHOP/A22

By Blanche S. Rivera and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

UNSATISFIED with the outpouring of donations to the Bayanihan Fund, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla is now urging people to give of their time and skills to their local governments.

Capalla, who is also president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said he was looking to revive a 1960s CBCP

program called "Alay Kapwa" (offering for your fellowmen). Only this time, he said, it could be called "Alay Gobeyerno."

In a pastoral letter read in Davao City on Sunday, the archbishop called on his fellow bishops and other religious and lay leaders to help him find once again the devotion that had spurred Alay Kapwa.

"We can revive this expression of collective stewardship by ... sharing our precious time, our professional talents and our hard-earned money."

BISHOP/A22

**Business / B1**

BIR exceeds August collection goal

Has Subic Bay become center of car smuggling?

By Michael Lim Ubac

HAS SUBIC Bay, a freeport hub, become a smuggling center?

This question cropped up after Customs Commissioner George Jereos

HAS SUBIC/A8



website: www.inq7.net

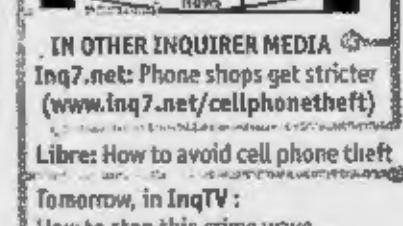


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INSIDE INQUIRER
Across the Nation: Phone thieves, drug users / A20
Business Smart, Globe: It's a police matter / B1



IN OTHER INQUIRER MEDIA

Inq7.net: Phone shops get stricter (www.inq7.net/cellphonetheft)

Libre: How to avoid cell phone theft (www.libre.com.ph/cellphonetheft)

Tomorrow, in InqTV: How to stop this crime wave (www.inq7.net/inqtv/cellphonetheft)

TO DIE FOR Figures don't tell real story

By Christian V. Esguerra

(Second of three parts)

IN THE records of the National Capital Region Police Office, there is not a single case of cell phone theft in the cities of Makati and Muntinlupa, and only one case each in the cities of Mandaluyong and Pasay.

FIGURES/A22

IN THE KNOW

Since 2002, more than 50,000 cell phones have been blocked by the National Telecommunications Center.

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and send to 682.

3 Block your phone

as soon as you learn it is lost or stolen.

Use any GSM phone to block a cell phone.

4 Unblock

Type UNBLOCK <CELL PHONE NUMBER> <PIN CODE>

and send to 682.

5 To unregister

Type UNREG <CELL PHONE NUMBER> <PIN CODE>

and send to 682.

6 To change pin code

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Cell phone stolen? Get even, disable it

By Luigi A. del Puerto

IF YOUR cell phone has been lost or stolen, you can ask the National Telecommunications Commission (BIR, Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City) to disable or block it.

You will need these documents: affidavit of ownership and loss (available at the NTC office), two valid identification cards (passport, driver's license, company or school ID, etc.), and proof of ownership (purchase receipt or bar code sticker of the phone's original box). If you do not have proof of ownership, a police certificate stating that your phone has been stolen will do.

Two numbers identify your GSM mobile phone—the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) and the International Mobile Subscriber Identifier (IMSI). The first is the number of the phone itself; the second is the electronic serial number of the Subscriber Identity Module or SIM card.

CELL PHONE/A22

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Central Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PM RESEARCH/09/15/04

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

Barbers: No need for 'talking heads'

By Cynthia D. Balana

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia should limit the "talking heads" in the House of Representatives who only add to the confusion on its position on certain issues and further accelerate a drop in its credibility rating, according to Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte).

In his letter to De Venecia dated Sept. 13, Barbers reminded the Speaker of his being the *primus inter pares* (first among equals) and that there was no substitute, alternate or designated "talking head" that the media or the public would accept especially on matters of national importance to speak for the House.

"This is one reality you will agree with me, that cannot and should not be delegated. Note the fact that your position carries the title of Speaker," Barbers wrote. Barbers, who resigned as majority spokesperson on Monday, noted that as a political body, the House has a surplus of spokespersons, with both the majority party and the majority coalition having one or more spokespersons.

Barbers said that since the elections were over, the immediate need was to ensure credibility and consistency of House position and of leadership issues. He said that a spokesperson was no antidote to the malignant image problem and the decades-long institutional battering of Congress in the public mind.

"We must put an end to Congress being the convenient 'whipping boy' of what is wrong in the country and in politics. Congress continues to be singled out as one of the principals, if not the only culprit, when things go wrong. Not so much the senators or mayors and others in government but congressmen," Barbers said.

The congressman stressed that Congress has been demonized over budget deficits, trillion-peso foreign loans and the gargantuan fiscal crisis when the facts showed otherwise.

Barbers said the Office of the Speaker must handle and speak for the House alone.

Political issues, he said, should be handled by the Lakas spokesperson and the majority coalition spokesperson only when the need arises.

The majority leader on the other hand, can speak for and discuss the legislative aspects as they relate to the issues of the times as well as the day-to-day concerns of the institution.

The committee chairs can handle the issues and concerns under their respective assigned bodies.

Barbers also asked De Venecia to set up a House Task Group that will set up an "honest-to-goodness House Communications and Public Information Center" similar to the Corporation Communications Centers of private corporations.

Barbers said House deputy secretary general Noel Albano could be the lead man of this task force, having vast experience in mass media and political communications.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) said that no amount of public relations work could do magic to the shattered image of the House unless the congressmen themselves change.

Escudero, however, pointed out that the image of most congressmen in their districts was not as bad as their collective image as members of the House.

"Sa distrito namin, mabango kami," said Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara (LDP, Aurora).

"We have been helping a lot of our constituents. Pero dito sa Maynila, bagsak kami. Maybe because you don't see what we're doing in our district and you don't see our projects here," Angara said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said withdrawing the unpopular tax measures that Malacañang wanted Congress to pass would be the best public relations move to redeem the image of Congress.

Solons restive over loss of pork; JDV under fire

By Carlito Pablo

RESTIVE does not begin to describe the atmosphere in the House of Representatives.

Not only are the congressmen concerned over the possible loss of their pork barrel, they are mulling a subtle change in leadership following the example set by the Senate.

Pro-administration Rep. Rodolfo Albano III (Kampi, Isabela) yesterday called on Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to "share the speakership with other qualified House leaders," as a first step toward initiating reforms and improving the battered image of the chamber.

"The changing of the guard should begin now," Albano said. "The young breed should be given a chance to lead the chamber. The new generation of congressmen is fed up with the system of trapismo (traditional politics)."

Albano's call came amid efforts by congressmen to find ways to improve the chamber's image, which has been tarred by the pork barrel issue and the horse-trading practices of some of its members.

One idea that was floated was to hire a professional public relations expert whose job it would be to refurbish the image of the House.

Albano found an ally in opposition Rep. Inee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) who noted that the Senate presidency will be shared by Senators Franklin Drilon and Manuel Villar.

"If term-sharing is being done in the Senate, why can't it be done in the House?" Marcos asked.

Marcos pointed out that De

Venecia himself had initiated all positions, including the Speaker's, vacant.

Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City), however, was able to prevail upon the lawmakers to wait until next week when the pork barrel issue would be discussed in yet another caucus.

It was after an all-party caucus last week that De Venecia had emerged and announced the congressmen's willingness to give up their pork barrel.

Albano yesterday afternoon delivered a privilege speech formalizing his resignation from the majority bloc. It was accepted by the House.

Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) invited Albano to join their group, which Albano quickly accepted.

He stressed, however, that he would remain with Kampi, the political party founded by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Napocor still wants full rate hike

By Gil C. Cabacungan

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. is still aiming to get approval before the end of the year of the full P1.87 per kilowatt-hour rate increase it originally petitioned for with the Energy Regulatory Commission, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said yesterday.

Perez said that while the provisional rate increase that the ERC granted recently was welcome, "Napocor feels that it is still not enough."

The ERC on Sept. 4 granted Napocor, the state power-generating firm which sells power to distribution utilities, a provisional increase of 98 centavos per kWh, just half of the P1.87 per kWh it petitioned for last June.

Napocor officials said the firm needed the increase to help stem losses projected to top P100 billion this year. The debt-strapped Napocor suffered a net loss of P113 billion in 2003.

Perez said hearings and consultations on the issue would continue between Napocor and the ERC which said it would come out with a final decision before year-end.

"I believe there is some information being requested by ERC which Napocor is willing to provide," said Perez.

Napocor said the P1.87 per kWh rate hike, or a 77 percent increase from current levels, would boost its profit margins to a minimum of 8 percent return on rate base set by its creditors. The latest data showed the power firm's return on rate base at negative 1.77 percent.

The strategy to improve Napocor's financial position is aimed at making it attractive to investors so it will stop being a burden to the national government. The firm's losses and debt have been one of the biggest drag on the government's finances.

Most analysts see the Napocor rate increase as more crucial to solving the

fiscal crisis than the new tax measures being proposed by Malacañang.

Malacañang released an Aug. 19 study by UBS Investment saying the "upsides surprise" would come from the power sector rather than the tax front.

UBS said that if the rate increase that Napocor is requesting is approved in full, "it would contribute to half the fiscal adjustment that we believe is necessary to stabilize the debt ratio."

It estimated that a full rate hike would cut Napocor's losses to just .8 percent of gross domestic product—the value of all the goods and services produced in the country—from 2.4 percent this year.

Unlike taxes, UBS noted that a power rate hike need not get the nod of Congress which means a "potentially a much swifter passage."

The ERC has 75 days to decide whether or not to grant Napocor the authority to raise rates by mid-October at the latest, UBS said.

Perez: No oil price hikes for 1 month

ENERGY Secretary Vince Perez yesterday assured consumers they would enjoy a month-long relief from oil price increases this September as world crude prices continue to fall from historic highs.

With prices of Dubai crude down 18 percent to \$33.83 per barrel from a record high of \$41.26 just a few days ago, "major oil-refining companies have absolutely no reason to increase prices of their products until the end of the month," Perez said.

Based on this development, Perez said Petron Corp. has announced that it would not be implementing any price increases until the end of the month.

"We welcome their announcement and we hope other major players should follow Petron's example," he said.

Perez said that if world crude oil prices continue their downward trend, there could be adjustments in fuel prices at the end of September, except for diesel whose prices remain high.

"There is an under-recovery in diesel and over-recovery in gasoline products for the new players," Perez said.

The top three oil companies last increased petroleum product prices by 30 centavos per liter on Aug. 18. The new oil players followed their lead about a week later with increases averaging 30 to 45 centavos per liter for gasoline, diesel and kerosene. Gil C. Cabacungan

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Jemaah terror group still lurks underground—Bunye

THE JEMAAH Islamiyah terror network maintains underground, cross-border links in the Philippines even though local Muslim separatists had declared they will no longer shelter them, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said yesterday.

"The (JI) threat lurks in the deep underground and there are clandestine connections across our borders but we are closely watching the situation in partnership with vigilant communities and allies in the region," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye was referring to past warnings of JI members being sheltered in some camps of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, now negotiating peace with the Philippine government.

But he declared the JI terror group would "find no hospitable nooks anywhere in the Philippines."

Officials have bolstered security nationwide and given such assurances to ease terror attack fears following last Thursday's deadly bombing outside the Australian Embassy in Indonesia which the JI has accepted responsibility for.

The JI is believed to be the Southeast Asian arm for Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network. The group was responsible for the Bali bombings in 2002 and last week's car bomb outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta, killing nine and wounding at least 180 others.

JI militants and their local recruits, believed drawn from the MILF, are also blamed for bombings which killed 22 people in Metro Manila in 2000.

Yesterday the Philippine National Police

said it was verifying reports that the members of the JI responsible for the Jakarta bombing last week might have trained in the Philippines.

"We are not discounting that possibility. We are leaving that (verification) to our intelligence officials," said Sr. Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, the PNP spokesperson.

The military has previously said as many as 60 JI members were being sheltered by MILF commanders in their camps in Mindanao despite their leadership's commitment not to work with terrorists as part of the peace process.

The International Crisis Group, an independent Brussels-based research organization, warned in July that Mindanao had become a training ground for JI and other Islamic extremist groups who maintain connections with local Muslim insurgents like the MILF.

The ICG report said there was a "possibility of international terrorism and domestic insurgency becoming ever more closely interwoven and mutually reinforcing," adding the alleged MILF-JI links could also endanger the peace talks.

It's unclear whether the terror links are just with local MILF commanders or with its leadership, the research group said.

The MILF, which has been waging a 26-year separatist rebellion in Mindanao, signed a truce in 2002 with the government, opening the way for peace negotiations brokered by Malaysia. However sporadic clashes with government forces still take place.

The MILF has denied any links with the JI and as part of its commitment to the peace process has pledged to help the military flush

out armed extremists operating in areas it controls in Mindanao.

The MILF said it was inviting members of a Malaysian-led ceasefire monitoring mission to visit their camps in Mindanao to check the alleged presence of JI militants.

The advance team of Malaysian peace monitors met with Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis yesterday to prepare for the resumption of formal peace talks with the MILF in October in Kuala Lumpur.

The Philippines has been described as the weakest link in the antiterror campaign in Southeast Asia—partly due to its relatively few arrests despite the presence of ranking JI operatives over the years—according to the ICG.

Defense officials also say about two dozen JI militants may be hiding in Mindanao after being displaced from training camps captured by the military. They said said last month that up to 25 JI militants may still be training

recruits in the south.

United States military officials have expressed concern over reports of JI training camps in the region, saying foreign militants could pass deadly skills to a new generation of recruits that could strike anywhere in the world.

Bunye said the government's anti-terror assaults have cut most links between the JI and the Muslim rebels, and has purged terror cells from the MILF. *With reports from AFP and AP Alcín Pápa*

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Exhibition: Makati Ballroom

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Labor group eyes strike moratorium

By Martin P. Marfil

A LARGE labor group yesterday said it was prepared to call a strike moratorium in exchange for employers promising not to resort to retrenchments and layoffs.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said its member unions would refrain from going on strike as their contribution to maintaining stability as the country grapples with a fiscal crisis.

"Difficult times call for drastic measures. Our move to call for mutual sacrifices may raise eyebrows but we need to do this for the workers and the people in general," said TUCP vice president Avelino Valerio.

However, the TUCP said it would adopt the strike moratorium policy only if employers also make a commitment not to retrench or lay off workers.

"In the spirit of national unity, we are pre-

pared to make a commitment that strikes will be used sparingly and only as a last resort. We challenge employers to do the same by committing to preserving existing jobs and observe labor standards," said TUCP spokesman Alex Aguilar.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who warned that the country was on the brink of a fiscal crisis, has proposed new taxes to ease the deficit and called for austerity measures to hold down the level of government expenditures.

On Monday, she said the times called for "sacrifice" to sustain economic growth, avert a larger financial crisis and protect the marginalized sectors of society.

The TUCP said the situation called for closer cooperation between labor and management.

But its leaders said workers were apprehensive as they would be the ones affected by the massive cost-cutting measures being proposed.

'Amazing Race' comes to RP

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACANANG will take a break from the financial crisis to watch the popular United States reality TV show, "Amazing Race," tonight.

That's because the "Amazing Race" contestants would be racing against each other right here in the country, particularly Metro Manila and Palawan.

Energy Secretary Vince Perez made the special announcement in a Palace press briefing after yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

"Secretary Obet (Roberto Pangdanganan) and I are pleased to announce that 'Amazing Race,' on its fifth season, would be shown tomorrow night (tonight) on AXN for two consecutive episodes," Perez said. The first episode airs at 8 tonight and the next would be shown next Wednesday.

Perez said the Philippine leg of the race around the world was shot last February but would only be telecast now. "Amazing Race" is a wildly popular show followed around the world by millions of viewers.

"None of us have seen the actual episodes. We would be definitely glued on TV to watch what parts of Manila and Palawan they would be visiting. So please, let's all watch the Philippines being showcased on an interna-

tional TV," Perez said.

"I hope it will bring increased tourism interest in the Philippines," Perez said.

Perez said that as Cabinet Officer for Regional Development for Palawan, he and Pangdanganan, former tourism secretary, successfully negotiated that "Amazing Race" come to the Philippines.

"Last year we actively promoted the Philippines as destination for the 'Amazing Race' production crew, given that they have so many choices to visit in Asia and we instead convinced them that they should come to the Philippines as part of their reality TV show," Perez said.

Perez said the government assisted the production in terms of logistics.

"As you can imagine this crew is more than a hundred personnel, cameramen, production, and helicopters so it's a big crew that always precedes the actual contestants. Why don't we just watch the episode and we will see for ourselves," Perez said.

Perez also gave this tip: "There is a surprise guest appearance by somebody important so let's all watch the episode." He would not say however who this important somebody is.

Perez's wife, Leigh Talnage-Perez, is chairwoman of the Ten Knots Development Corp., which operates the El Nido Resorts in Palawan.

A RETURN TO THE DARK AGES?

Of late, much attention has been paid to the fiscal crisis faced by the country.

Meanwhile, another serious concern has taken the back seat.

An energy shortage similar to that of the late 80s and early 90's looms in the horizon. A return to that scenario is imminent if no new capacity is built NOW.

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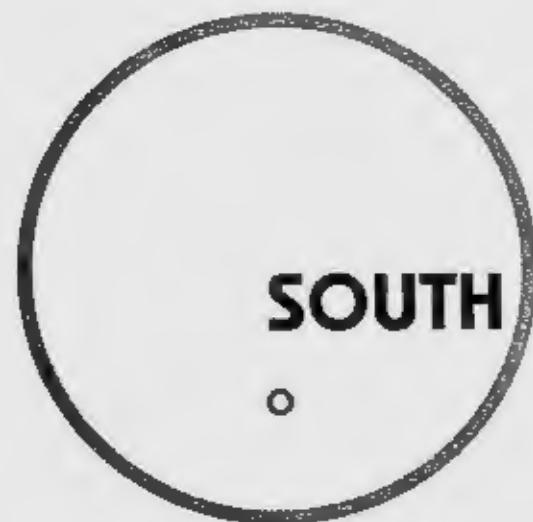
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Napocor chief quits, leaves firm bleeding

From page A1

not solve the fiscal crisis.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said the economic managers should follow Figueroa's lead, saying that they had no business staying in office if they had run out of solutions to avert the collapse of the economy.

Eleven professors at the University of the Philippines School of Economics warned last month that the economy would collapse in two to three years unless the government reined in the public sector deficit and debt by adopting revenue and cost-saving measures.

"We should face this crisis squarely. All of us should do our share. But those who are re-

sponsible for this crisis and actually messed up the government's financial standing should resign now. The time has come for them to go," Villar said.

NFA and LRTA

On Sunday, Villar called for the firing of the heads of three GOCCs that had contributed to the fiscal deficit from 2000 to 2002 with their losses and liabilities.

He did not name the heads of the GOCCs but identified the three GOCCs—Napocor, National Food Authority and Light Railway Transit Authority.

Villar noted that although the country was in dire straits, heads of top government corporations continued to receive fat

salaries and perks.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that "ultimately the President" should be held to account for the economy.

Perez denied that Murga's resignation was prompted by a Senate inquiry into Napocor, one of the government corporations criticized for mismanagement and overspending on perks of its officials.

"The President had hoped that Mr. Murga might continue his outstanding work for Napocor. She, however, has chosen to honor the request of Mr. Murga that he be allowed to spend more time with his family," Perez said at a press briefing.

Reading the President's statement, he said: "She underscores

that the leadership of Mr. Murga will be greatly missed, especially since his retirement is taking place at a time when Napocor is at an important chapter in its corporate history."

Retirement program

Ms Arroyo instructed Murga to ensure, before he retired, the following: Complete the streamlining of Napocor, strengthen the mechanisms for cost-reduction, and pave the way for the speedier privatization of the company's generation assets.

"The President has commended the accomplishments of Mr. Murga, particularly in the preliminary streamlining of the company which involved the reduction of Napocor personnel from 8,000 to just about

3,700. This translated to savings in operations for Napocor of about P800 million," the statement said.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo wanted to conduct an inquiry into how Napocor was able to spend P12 billion for the retirement of its senior officials despite its financial problems.

Arroyo said last week that Napocor officials could not explain where they got the money for the retirement program.

Personal sacrifice

The senator said Napocor officials had better get ready because he would look into the retirement program carefully. He noted that even before Napocor could sell its generating assets, officials "already

got the money ... then rehired themselves."

Perez said Murga was receiving a basic monthly salary of P107,000, which Ms Arroyo described as a "personal sacrifice."

"She noted that Mr. Murga was plucked out of nearly two years of retirement in January last year to head Napocor. As most people know, Mr. Murga had retired as vice chair of EEL Corp. in 2001 and was already leading a quiet life when he was asked to join the energy sector," Perez said.

Ms Arroyo described Murga as a "silent but effective and dedicated corporate leader whose long experience in the field of management and engineering came in handy at a time when the NPC was headed toward a new and vital direction."

Nat'l treasurer left...

From page A1

Figueroa said she could not be given other directorship tasks because of the government's cost-cutting measures.

She said she would go back to the private sector where she could make more money.

Policy differences

Figueroa denied reports that she was leaving her job because of policy differences with Department of Finance officials.

"I would like to disabuse that. There is no truth at all to that. I think some may have used my resignation and I felt bad for the people whose names were locked into this," she said.

But when asked if she had had some differences with people at the Treasury, she replied in the affirmative.

"I will have to see an organization where everyone sings the same tune. You really have people there who will, but you resolve this amicably," she said.

Rumor had it her resignation was prompted by policy differences with Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto. While Figueroa was in charge of domestic borrowings, Recto handles the government's foreign borrowings.

She said that when she joined the Treasury as deputy treasurer three years ago, she knew she would not stay long because she was doing a friend Sergio Edeza, then the national treasurer, a favor.

Figueroa replaced Edeza, now an official of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. The two worked together as traders at the treasury department of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas from 1981 to 1989.

Figueroa did not say who would replace her in the Treasury's top post, saying it was up to Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong to make a recommendation.

Figueroa, an accounting grad-

IN THE KNOW
THE JOB of treasurer of the Philippine government is crucial in the face of the huge budget deficit. It is a "tough job" in the words of resigned treasurer Mina Figueroa.

Responsible for the government's funding requirements, the national treasurer is in charge of formulating policies on borrowing, investment and capital market development.

The treasurer heads the office that oversees the disbursement of loan payments—both foreign and domestic—as well as advances made by some government-owned and controlled corporations.

Figueroa, from the University of Santo Tomas, worked for Equitable-PCI Bank as treasury manager from 1989 to 1990 and for Security Bank from 1990 to 1999.

She joined the Bureau of Treasury in 2001 as deputy national treasurer when Edeza was appointed treasurer. Edeza was the one who asked her to work for the Treasury.

Job offers

As for job offers, she said she had heard of some but "I refused to entertain them while I was still in the position."

After her days at the Treasury, Figueroa said she would take a short vacation and then hunt for a job.

She proposed that the salaries of those who would stay in government be increased as part of the streamlining of the bureaucracy.

"If their salaries are not adjusted, it may look like the government is punishing those who would prefer to stay in government service," she said.

Just like the senators, Amatong

told the Senate that right-hand-drive vehicles were entering the freeport with the approval of officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

The law bans the entry of such types of vehicles into the country.

Testifying Monday at a joint hearing by the Senate committees on trade and industry, and economic affairs, both chaired by Sen. Mar Roxas, Jereos said the entry of right-hand-drive vehicles through Subic was facilitated by importation permits.

Under questioning by Sen. Richard Gordon, Jereos conceded that "no article (including said vehicles) can enter Subic without any import permit issued by the SBMA."

"So SBMA is the culprit then?" asked Gordon, who observed that if SBMA "is ... in this, they (freeport officials) are the ones responsible for the violation."

Jereos replied: "Logical conclusion, Mr. Senator."

Happening at Clark, too?

Pressed further by Gordon, Jereos said the same could hold true at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Gordon pointed out during the hearing that as many as 90,000 cars had allegedly entered the country illegally through SBMA "in the past so many years." In January 2003 alone, 6,000 cars were imported into Subic Bay, he said.

Jereos nodded.

Jereos said that right-hand-drive cars being brought into SBMA were "converted by some companies inside the zone and brought out of the

zone as (left)-hand-drive (cars)."

Gordon rebuked Jereos for seemingly being ignorant of SBMA rules and regulations that prohibit such conversions because it "causes pollution to the environment."

The rampant importation of vehicles for conversion to left-hand drive had resulted in diminishing sales in the car market in the last two or three years, based on Land Transportation Office (LTO) records, said Gordon.

Killing local industry

Gordon chided the customs bureau for "turning a blind eye on a pernicious operation that is also killing the local automotive industry."

He said that the government was losing much-needed revenues due to the failure of customs officials to stop the highly questionable importation of luxury vehicles into the country through Subic and Clark.

Gordon reminded Jereos that the customs bureau should enforce at Subic and Clark the law banning the importation of right-hand-drive vehicles.

The senator also pointed out that, during his chairmanship of the SBMA, there were also rules prohibiting the conversion of right-hand-drive vehicles inside the freeport.

"You can just say 'no' to importation of right-hand-drive vehicles and be done with judicial declaration," Gordon told Jereos. "Why has that not happened? Are there powerful interests behind these car importers?"

For monitoring purposes

The senator said that the smuggling of luxury vehicles

would cause severe harm to the country from the "standpoint of revenue, productivity, which decreases our creation of jobs, and from the standpoint of safety and the environment."

"Would you let your son or your daughter drive a right-hand-vehicle converted to a left-hand-vehicle without any assessment made by the LTO or by other responsible authorities?" Gordon asked Jereos.

"I will not," the customs chief answered.

The SBMA, in a statement yesterday, said the freeport "issues importation permits to importers [investors] here for regulated items, including used vehicles, for monitoring purposes."

"Being a freeport zone, goods can be unloaded in Subic without being considered an importation," it said in a statement issued by its public relations office.

"However, before the goods are released into the Customs territory, the importer must secure other necessary permits from the government and pay the required duties and taxes imposed by the (BOC)," it said.

The SBMA said that, while a permit from the Bureau of Import Services (BIS) was required for second-hand vehicles, "the BOC accepts the payment of duties and taxes and penalties in the absence of a permit from the BIS."

"It is only after the taxes and penalties are paid that vehicles are registered when (these) are issued gate passes by the SBMA for their release," the statement said. With a report from Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Has Subic Bay become center . . .

From page A1

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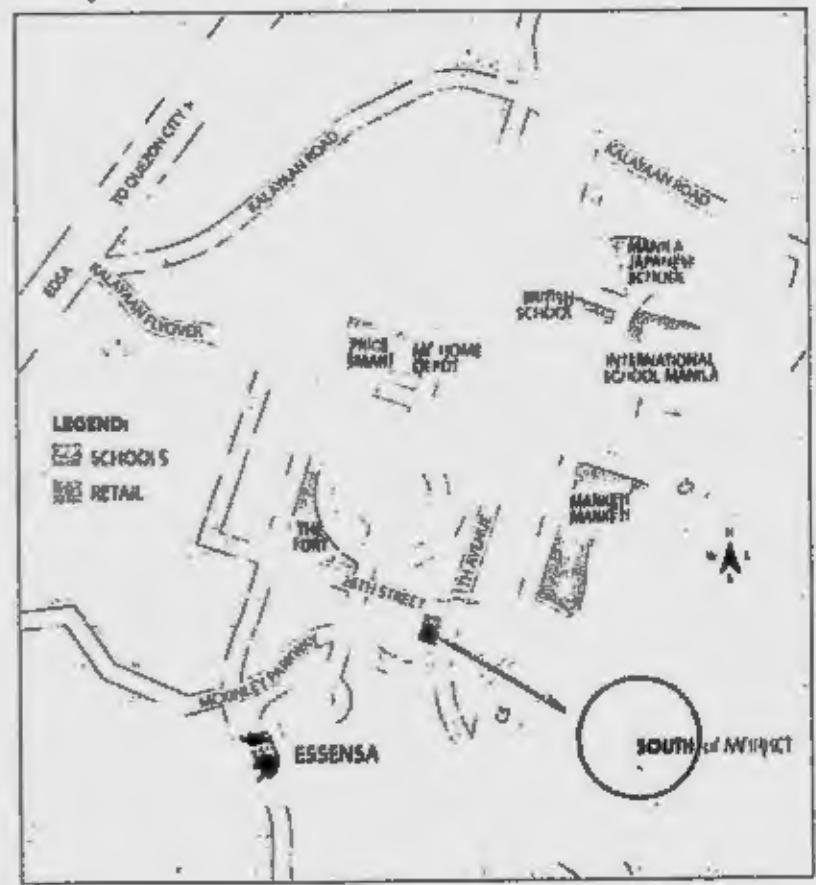
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Howard won't bow to Iraqi militants

CANBERRA—Prime Minister John Howard said Tuesday he would not withdraw troops from Iraq as demanded by militants who claimed to have taken two Australians hostage and threatened to execute them within 24 hours.

Australian officials were trying to determine whether the claim by the Horror Brigades of the Islamic Secret Army that it had abducted two Australian security guards along with two Asians was true.

"It could be several days before we find out how many Australians are in Iraq, and where they are.

After initially saying there were

88 Australians registered as being in the country, the government said late Tuesday there could be up to 200—mostly private security guards—and so far only 90 have been contacted by diplomats.

"We will not contract out our foreign policy to terrorists," he said.

Minister Alexander Downer told reporters in Sydney.

Downer said a "logistics" team already was on its way to Iraq from Western Australia state to help extricate the hostages. He refused to say if the team was from the elite Special Air Service regiment which is based in Western Australia.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty said hostage negotiators and counterterrorism experts were on standby in Jordan should they be needed, but Downer stressed the

government would not agree to any kidnapper demands.

"We will not contract out our foreign policy to terrorists," he said.

The militant group in Iraq claimed it abducted the two Australians and two Asians on a road between Baghdad and Mosul. It said the hostages, who were not named, would be executed if the government did not withdraw from Iraq within 24 hours, authorities said. No other details were immediately available.

"We all hope and pray this information is wrong," Howard said.

"It's encouraging that the people (hostages) have not been named because often when hostages are taken they carry their papers with them and therefore they can be identified and often in the past passports have been displayed on television," he told radio station 5DN.

The potential crisis comes at a sensitive time for Howard as he campaigns for reelection on Oct. 9.

Howard is a staunch US supporter who defied widespread public anger to send 2,000 troops

to the invasion of Iraq last year and still has 880 military personnel in and around the country.

The prime minister has repeatedly said he will never negotiate with hostage takers or cave in to their demands—even if Australian lives are on the line.

Opposition Labor leader Mark Latham said Tuesday he backed Howard's stance.

"I am at one with the government in saying you shouldn't negotiate with terrorists and no one should change their policies," he said. AP

Massive car bomb kills 47 near Baghdad police HQ

BAGHDAD—At least 47 people were killed in a massive car bomb blast outside the main police headquarters in Baghdad on Tuesday, leaving a trail of carnage and chaos in a bustling area of the Iraqi capital.

Witnesses said dozens of people were queuing outside the station, which doubles as a police recruitment center, when the explosives-rigged vehicle blew up, sending shards of shrapnel flying and clouds of smoke into the air.

A health ministry spokesman said 47 people were killed and 114 wounded in the blast which occurred in the Haifa street area, a troubled district of Baghdad considered a bastion of Saddam Hussein loyalists.

The attack came just two days after fierce clashes between US forces and insurgents in the same area on Sunday left at least 13 people dead and 55 wounded.

Police sergeant Haider Hamid said the bomb struck outside the main entrance of the al-Karkh police center on Tuesday, but that the building itself escaped with only minor damage.

Shrapnel devastated a row of simple stores, including a coffee shop just after 10 a.m., sending smashed glass and twisted debris everywhere.

Outside one smashed shop was a pool table where children, still on summer holiday in Baghdad, often played billiards.

Body parts were littered everywhere and pools of congealed blood was smeared across the pavement, said AFP correspondents.

The health ministry said the casualties were taken to three separate hospitals in the capital.

Angry men cursed US President George W. Bush as tears poured down the faces of shocked residents amid the scene of devastation.

Four cars were burnt-out, but there was no visible damage to the police station itself.

Later, dozens of US troops sealed off Haifa Street as US helicopters circled overhead, an AFP correspondent witnessed.

Shooting flared in the street and panicked residents began fleeing the area where fierce fighting between American soldiers and insurgents left 13 people dead on Sunday.

On Monday, US troops enforced a strict night-time curfew in Haifa Street.

In Baquba, twelve Iraqi policemen and one civilian were killed on Tuesday when gunmen sprayed their car with bullets, police said.

The shooting occurred in the southeastern part of the city, said police officer Mohamed Mabrouk.

Iraqi security forces are regularly attacked in the restive city.

In the most recent killing, an Iraqi national guard colonel, his son and a fellow officer were assassinated in Baquba Sunday. AFP

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'Batman' slips past guards at Buckingham Palace

LONDON—A group that advocates greater rights for fathers in child custody cases sent two of its operatives over the fence at Buckingham Palace Monday, and one of them, dressed as Batman, scampered up a ladder to a ledge near the Queen's balcony, setting off a security alert and a tense standoff with police.

Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the royal family were not in residence and were said to be at Balmoral Castle in Scotland on holiday. The intruder, later identified as Jason Hatch, 33, of Cheltenham, unfurled a banner on the edifice of the British monarchy's massive state residence that said "Super Dads of fathers 4 justice, fighting for your right to your kids." Although there have been numerous breaches over the years, Britons seemed

startled by the ease with which palace security was overrun by two men in super hero costumes carrying an extension ladder.

For the next several hours, Hatch waved at befuddled crowds of tourists denied access to the popular Buckingham Palace tour in its final weeks of the summer season. He also engaged in an uneasy repartee with embarrassed police and palace security officials.

After five and a half hours, he removed his Batman mask and agreed to come down. Police used a crane to extract him from the ledge as his supporters chanted "free Batman" from behind a police cordon.

Dave Pyke, wearing a Robin costume, identified himself as Hatch's accomplice. *New York Times*

Indon police offer reward for arrest of terror suspects

JAKARTA—Indonesian police announced a \$210,000 reward Tuesday for information leading to the arrest of two Malaysian militants who are the leading suspects in last week's attack on the Australian Embassy.

Investigators said the death toll from Thursday's bombing could reach 11 because 117 fragments of human remains recovered from the scene have yet to be identified.

Authorities earlier put the death toll at nine. As many as three of the dead may have been suicide bombers. Australian and Indonesian investigators have said.

The top two suspects are Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Top, two Malaysians who authorities

say are key members of Jemaah Islamiyah, an al-Qaida-linked group. Police have launched a massive manhunt for the pair.

Detective chief Lt. Gen. Suyitno Landung said police had allotted \$105,000 for information leading to the arrest of either man.

Information leading to the capture of lesser players in the conspiracy was worth \$52,000, he said.

Detectives have already identified the chassis number of the white delivery truck used in the blast. Similar evidence led to the arrest of key suspects in the 2002 Bali bombings in which more than 200 people perished.

Jemaah Islamiyah was blamed for the Bali blasts and a suicide at-

tack last year on the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta that killed 12 people.

Police say Husin and Noordin Top are believed to have recruited more suicide bombers for more attacks.

The government said Tuesday that the suicide bombing is unlikely to significantly affect the country's \$4 billion tourist industry.

"We are not knocked out, but have suffered a jolt... we are still standing up," Tourism Minister I

Gde Ardika told reporters.

The industry was hit hard by the Bali and Marriott bombings. It was also hurt by the fallout from the invasion of Iraq and Asia's SARS outbreak in 2003.

Still, statistics now show that arrivals are now up to pre-2002 levels, and Ardika said he was confident that the latest attack would not affect projected tourist numbers of more than 5 million next year. AP

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September 26, October 24, 2004 Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ADVANCED SUPERVISORY TECHNIQUES
September 30, October 2004 Sunday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

EFFECTIVE BUSINESS COMMUNICATION
September 30, October 2004 Sunday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

INCOME & BUSINESS TAXES FOR BUSINESSMEN, EXEC. & PROFESSIONALS
September 30, October 2004 Sunday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
September 30, October 2004 Sunday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING FOR MORE AND SUPER PROFITS
September 7, 14 & 21, 2004 Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

STEPS IN BUSINESS FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION
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Sharon rejects call for referendum

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Tuesday rejected a rival's call for a national referendum on a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, saying it was an attempt to delay the pullback planned for 2005.

Sharon asked his security Cabinet on Tuesday to approve accelerated compensation payments for 8,500 Jewish settlers who would be removed from their homes. Sharon is trying to speed up the withdrawal and entice settlers to leave voluntarily, to avoid future confrontations between settlers and troops.

Sharon also threatened to expel Yasser Arafat "at a convenient time," saying in a newspaper interview published Tuesday that he saw no difference between the Palestinian leader and top Hamas militants killed by Israel in recent months. Israel says Arafat has encouraged and at times financed at-

tacks on Israel.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said he believes Sharon's threats are part of a hidden agenda "to kill President Arafat and to push the Palestinian people toward chaos... and the rule of militias."

In the West Bank, a Palestinian suicide bomber riding a bike blew himself up near a checkpoint, wounding at least two Israeli soldiers, the Army said. Rescue services said one of the soldiers was seriously wounded.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent group linked to Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed responsibility. It said the bombing was meant to avenge the killing of three Al Aqsa members in an Israeli mosque strike the day before. The group identified the bomber as Yousef Ghbari, 26, of the nearby town of Qalqilya.

In newspaper interviews ahead of the Jewish New Year, Sharon rejected a proposal by Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to hold a referendum on the Gaza withdrawal. Netanyahu, a former prime minister with ambitions to return to the job, is Sharon's main rival for leadership of the ruling Likud Party.

Sharon has already lost two contests in Likud over his plan, which includes a withdrawal from all of Gaza and four West Bank settlements by the end of 2005.

Threats of violent resistance by Jewish settlers have increased calls for a national referendum on the pullout, which opinion polls show has strong support in the Israeli public. But a referendum would require parliament to legislate a bill allowing for such a vote, a process that Sharon said would delay the withdrawal.

"The issue is not on the agen-

da," Sharon told the *Yediot Achronot* newspaper in an interview published Tuesday.

"The real intention here is to delay the implementation. The disengagement plan will be implemented without delay based on the dates that were decided on. We cannot deviate by even one day from what the Cabinet decided," he said.

Sharon's security Cabinet was to approve a bill for compensation payments to settlers Tuesday. Cabinet approval will allow the government to pay cash advances to settlers and entice them to leave their homes ahead of a September 2005 deadline.

Families are expected to receive compensation of \$200,000 to \$500,000, based on the value of lost homes and property and time spent in their settlements. Advances would amount to a third of the total.

AP

Woman in Da Vinci's 'Mona Lisa' identified

ROME—Italian scholar Giuseppe Pallanti claims in a new book to have identified Mona Lisa, the woman whose mysterious smile has intrigued art lovers ever since Leonardo da Vinci painted her portrait 500 years ago.

"When Del Giocondo took Lisa Gherardini as his second wife, she moved up in the world," Pallanti said.

"Her husband supplied textiles to the Medici family" then the dominant force in Florence in 1479.

"I used nothing but archival records," Pallanti said in an interview. "This is not a novel."

A recent blockbuster work of fiction, "The Da Vinci Code," suggests that Mona Lisa was Leonardo's disguised self-portrait. Another theory is that she never existed at all.

One of the documents that supports his research is the will drawn up before Francesco's death in 1538, which is addressed to his wife, Pallanti said.

"Lisa Gherardini divided her life between Florence and Chianti," a wine-producing town in Tuscany, he said.

AFP



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GOCC execs get P5M to P9M in pay, Boncodin tells senators

From page A1

beth Ong (P5.8M); Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia (P5.6M); DBP EVP Rolando Geronino (P5.5M) and DBP EVP Vivencio Macapagal (P5.2M).

Of the top 100 officials who made the list, 24 were from DBP and 22 from GSIS.

2001 big money-earners

In 2001, it was Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Chair Maria Livin "Honeygirl" Singson-De Leon who had the highest annual income with P9.8 million.

Other top money-earners in 2001, in terms of salaries and allowances, were: PCSO general manager Virgilio Angelo, P6.5 million; DBP president Remedios Macalincag, P5.3 million; Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista, P4.2 million; PCSO general manager Ricardo Golpeo, P4.1 million, DBP CEO Edgardo Garcia, P3.8 million, and Social Security System executive vice president Horacio Templo, P3.7 million.

Others among the highest paid in 2001 were Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) executive vice president Jesus Diaz and LBP senior vice president Rodrigo Sopena. Boncodin, however, failed to give the amounts of their salaries.

Villar, the committee chair, sought the list from Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin but she could only provide the Commission on Audit's list of the top 100 officials in 2001 and 2002.

Salaries now under review

Boncodin said her department and the Department of Finance were currently reviewing the compensation packages of GOCC executives and would advise Ms Arroyo whether these were appropriate or not.

Villar told Boncodin he wanted the list because he had called for the resignation of the heads of Napocor, National Food Authority and Light Rail Transit Authority on the grounds that these firms had contributed heavily to the country's deficit problem.

"Villar had said these firms accounted for a big share of the total deficit due to losses and liabilities incurred through the years 2000 and 2002."

Villar told reporters that Congress should "rationalize" the salaries and benefits of these GOCC officials owing to the fiscal crisis.

"There should be a change in the compensation scheme of our GOCC officials so that it would not be shameful when they ask people to pay high taxes and high electricity rates," he said.

Should have been sacked

Villar said it would be all right if the salaries were large and the officials getting them were doing a good job.

"But it's clear that their performance as a whole is not that good," Villar said.

"Poor management should not be rewarded with fat salaries," Villar said separately in a statement. "If these officials were in the private sector, they would have been fired."

Boncodin told reporters that the charters of the GOCCs allowed officials to set the rates of their salaries because they were exempted from the Salary Standardization Law.

"We will see how big these salaries are compared to the private sector to determine if these were appropriate to the financial capability of their corporations," she added.

If it was found that the salaries were not appropriate, Boncodin said that "we will recommend to the President the appropriate remedial legislation."

Provoking laughter

"These salaries could be the reason National Treasurer Mina Figueroa has submitted her resignation. Maybe she wants to transfer to a GOCC," Villar joked, eliciting laughter from the audience.

Figueroa said she was leaving government service because of the low compensation and her need to improve her own finances.

The Senate called for an inquiry into the way the GOCCs were being managed or "mismanaged" after finance and budget officials testified at a recent hearing that heavily losing GOCCs—whose officials were enjoying high compensation—were largely to blame for the country's debt woes.

The Senate earlier noted that the country's consolidated public sector debt had reached P5.3 trillion as of 2003. Of the amount, the national government accounted for over P3 trillion, while state-owned companies had a more than P2-trillion share.

Biggest headache

While the national government had a bigger share of the debt burden, a substantial part of its borrowings were also intended to bail out losing state-owned firms, the Senate said.

Among all state-owned companies, Napocor is the government's biggest headache. Napocor's budget deficit is expected to hit P115 billion by year-end and its P500 billion debt will be assumed by the national government as part of its power sector reform agenda.

The DBM said it was studying what measures to push for to impose fiscal discipline on GOCCs.

Boncodin earlier said she welcomed the idea of lifting the exemptions of state-owned companies from the salary Standardization Law or putting a cap on salaries of officials of state-owned companies.

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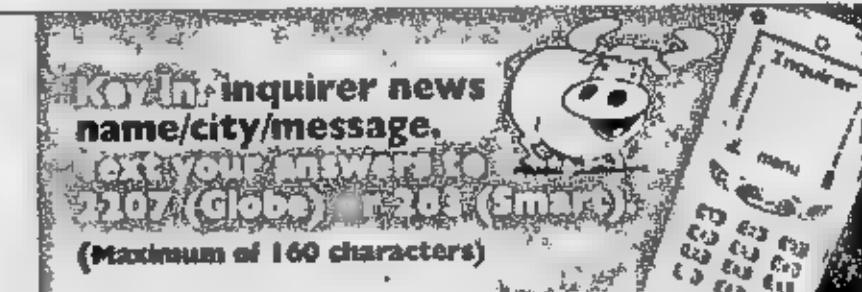
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September 21: What are your recollections of Martial Law? Any lessons learned?

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Hidden danger

INVESTIGATORS of the recent bombing in Jakarta have told the wire services that one of their main suspects may have given bomb-making lessons in the Philippines. The Indonesian government maintains that the Jakarta bombing, aimed at the Australian Embassy in that city, was perpetrated by two Malaysians named Azahari bin Hussein and Noordin Top, both members of Je-mah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian terrorist group affiliated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

Of the two, it is Azahari, a British-trained engineer, who is alleged to have taught bomb-making to fellow militants in Mindanao and Afghanistan. The most recent Jakarta bombing itself already represents a raising of the terrorist ante—the 200 kilos of explosives detonated mark a significant increase over the last such truck bombing—and a reminder that the JI is a continuing threat to the entire region.

Beyond this general reminder of danger to all nations in which the JI may have a presence, the claim by Indonesian authorities that one of the suspects may have taught his deadly craft to others on our soil should spur our authorities to intensify their efforts against the JI and its allies here. This includes greater scrutiny on JI allies, including the widely reported links between the JI and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Time and again, international and Philippine news reports have indicated ties between the two organizations. And while the MILF, since the time of the late Hashim Salamat, has said it would make serious moves to renounce terrorism, it has yet to do so in a substantive way.

When the MILF took upon itself to cooperate with the Philippine government in cracking down on the Pentagon kidnap for ransom gang, it was a step in the right direction. This step, unfortunately, did not result in any further cooperation. Logically, working together to eliminate the Pentagon gang should have led to efforts to root out the presence of the JI in the country. No such cooperation, or plans for such efforts, have been undertaken to date by the MILF and the government.

If a compelling reason was lacking before, one exists now. The statements of the MILF dating back some years should now be backed up by action. If the MILF is really serious about relinquishing its terrorist past and connections, it should do so by undertaking a joint effort with Philippine authorities to eliminate the JI and its local training camps.

The alternative—for the MILF to stick its head in the sand, or worse, cynically continue tacitly assisting the JI while piously pleading it knows nothing of the JI's efforts here—is too grim to contemplate. Not only does it place both Muslim and Christian Filipinos in danger of being targets of a JI attack here, but it makes the country vulnerable to foreign pressure and even aggression.

Our ASEAN neighbors, such as Indonesia and Thailand which are grappling with militant Muslims, and countries such as Malaysia and Singapore, which are either alarmed by the participation of their nationals in JI plots or fear being the next target of such plots, will not be happy with a Philippines that allows JI training camps to train and export terrorists. We do not have to elaborate, either, on the possibility of intensified American interest in Mindanao, with accompanying political, military and economic pressure on our country to make itself pliable to American strategic interests, at a time when our economy is so shaky.

While the United States views the JI and its capability to attack as an international problem and ASEAN continues to grapple with the problem, we should remember that this is also a fundamental Philippine problem. Besides the danger of our country being viewed as a helpless, and worse, dangerous coddler of terrorists, we should consider the real danger to ourselves arising from having terrorist training camps in Mindanao as well as terrorist cells in our metropolitan centers. A fearful people, an unsafe people, are a people who cannot devote their energies and concentration to the task at hand. Those tasks are serious enough, without adding the danger of bombs going off in our midst.

DOTC buys land it already owns for P100.8 M

AS promised in this column last Monday, here are the details of the latest scam in which the government, through the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC), paid P100.8 million for public land it already owns. They were revealed at the Kapitan sa Manila by former Sen. Francisco S. Tatad who said he had been asked by a group of citizens, mostly professionals, who had banded together under the name Citizens vs. Corruption Task Force, to fight corruption in government. Members of the task force had discovered and gathered documents and evidence in the scam. Photocopies of some of these documents were distributed to the press.

Back in 2002, the DOTC paid P100,804,500 to "buy" 10.2 hectares of "public land" in Palawan for the proposed expansion of the Puerto Princesa international airport, Tatad reported. The DOTC concluded the sale a month after it had offered to "buy" the property at P900 per square meter while the government was buying private land for the Iloilo international airport at P60 per sq m. It released payment for the Palawan property four days after the deed of absolute sale was notarized.

The deed of sale shows that the land is not covered by a transfer certificate of title (the space in the contract meant for this information is left blank) and is described as "public land" situated in Barrio Canigarán, Puerto Princesa City.

"The alleged owner, a certain Edirha Marcelo Bayron, did not sign the sale," Tatad's statement said. "She was simply represented by a certain Melchor N. Prado, who acted as her attorney-in-fact. From start to finish, Bayron had no direct dealings with the DOTC. She has named two attorneys-in-fact in Puerto Princesa—David A. Ponce de Leon and Prado—but only Prado participated actively in the transaction all throughout. Ponce de Leon had no recorded active participation in the transaction."

The alleged owner did not offer to sell the property (at least there is no record of it). It was the DOTC that offered to buy it—twice. The first offer was made on April 23, 2002 and

As I See It



Neal H. Cruz

signed by Director Luis Manuel Virtucio, chair of the DOTC site acquisition committee. The DOTC offered to pay P700 per sq m. It was addressed not to Bayron but to Ponce de Leon and Prado. Prado rejected it on the same day.

On May 13, 2002, Virtucio made another offer, this time at P900 per sq m. Prado accepted it on the same day.

Prado executed the deed of sale with then Assistant Secretary Alan Adena Tan, representing the DOTC. The contract is undated and no witnesses signed it, but it was notarized in Pasig City on June 24, 2002. Four days later, on June 28, 2002, a cashier's check for P89,749,714.69 was released to Prado.

"The crime is clear," Tatad said. "The government bought a property it already, and has always, owned. It was clearly a ghost purchase. The money was simply siphoned off, in the guise of paying for a legitimate expense. Who were responsible and who benefited? DOTC records will reveal their names. We will release these later. Many are no longer in the service. But the syndicate itself may still be operating."

The expansion of the Puerto Princesa airport is part of the Third Airports Development Projects, funded by foreign loans, which include five other airports (the Cotabato international airport and domestic airports in Butuan, Dipolog, Lagadian and Sanga-Sanga). Estimated total cost: P14.3 billion.

The Asian Development Bank and the European International Bank had agreed earlier to bankroll the projects but they have since pulled out because of "the government's unsatisfactory performance." This shows where foreign loans

go. These are the loans that are now at the root of our fiscal crisis, to pay for which the Arroyo administration is going to tax the people.

Fighting graft and corruption is one of the well-publicized activities of the President. It is one of the linchpins (together with reducing spending and raising taxes) of her new program of government. But complaints regarding the Palawan transaction have long reached the DOTC, Tatad said, but have so far been ignored.

"We call on President Arroyo to act on this matter with utmost urgency, by ordering the prosecution of all those involved, and by ordering a total revamp of the DOTC," he said.

The House of Representatives is reportedly looking for a public relations practitioner who can improve the public image of that chamber. But no spin doctor, not even a whole PR agency, can improve the public perception of the House. For it is the members of the House themselves who are destroying its image because of their greed, trickery and corruption. The only way to change it is for God to let His wrath wipe it off the face of the earth and then have the people elect a new generation of politicians.

The case of the pork barrel, which is hated by all the people and a towering example of corruption in government, is a case in point. Realizing that the people will not take it anymore, Speaker Jose de Venecia and his close aides announced that the pork had been abolished in the new budget.

The announcement was met with laughter and derision. Nobody believed it. "They have a trick up their sleeves," people said. And they were right.

We just can't trust these congressmen. It turns out the pork will be abolished only in name. It will still be there, hidden in nooks and crannies in the budgets for various projects. The congressmen will still identify the projects for their districts, and most likely the contractors. And that's where the pork lies: in the commissions kicked back to the lawmakers by contractors.

Don't look outside



THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BEFORE MICHAEL Moore did "Fahrenheit 9/11," he did "Bowling for Columbine." Though "Fahrenheit" is by far the more popular because of its quite literally incendiary subject and its open indictment of George W. Bush, "Bowling," at least in my book, is the more penetrating. It was no accident that it won the Oscar last year for best documentary. It deserved it.

People tend to think it's just a brief against guns, Randy Pacheco's favorite crusade. Well, yes, it is, but it is more than that. It asks how Columbine happened—which was where a couple of boys went on a shooting spree, killing 12 students, a teacher and themselves—and discovers a pretty disturbing answer. Which is that it was an accident waiting to happen. The culture of violence that has permeated America over the centuries made it possible. Guns are both the effects and causes of that violence. The violence, or the paranoia associated with it, has driven citizens to own guns, and the guns themselves have raised the ante on violence. A violence that is ravaging as much the schools of America as the dwelling places of the peoples of the world.

At one point in "Bowling," Moore interviews an official of Lockheed Martin, the biggest weapons-maker in America, whose plant in Littleton is the town's main employer and whose logo is "We're Columbine." The official expresses shock that the Columbine shooting could happen in America, asking, "Why would kids do this?"

Moore asks him if it is not possible that the kids who see their parents go to work building missiles at Lockheed Martin do not think there's any difference between the mass destruction those weapons wreak and the one that happened at Columbine High School. The official is aghast. The missiles they make, he says, are made for defense. "We don't get irritated with somebody, and just 'cause we're mad at them drop a bomb, shoot at them, or fire a missile at them."

Next follows (to the tune of "What a Wonderful World," sung by Louis Armstrong) a long list of what America does when it "gets irritated with somebody." Among the more recent ones:

"1981: Reagan administration trains and funds 'Contras,' 30,000 Nicaraguans die; 1982: US gives millions in aid to Saddam Hussein for weapons to kill Iranians; 1983: White House secretly gives Iran weapons to kill Iraqis; 1989: Manuel Noriega, Panama president and CIA agent, disobeys orders from Washington, US invades Panama and removes Noriega, 3,000 Panamanians die; 1991 till Iraq war: American planes bomb Iraq on a weekly basis, UN estimates 500,000 Iraqi children die from bombing and sanctions; 2000-2001: US gives Taliban-ruled Afghanistan \$245 million in aid; 9/11: Bin Laden uses his expert CIA training to murder 3,000 Americans."

Americans were at least more introspective during the third anniversary of 9/11, mourning their dead with less strident calls for their government to bomb their tormentors back to the Stone Age. But there were those, notably America's leaders, who continued to talk about the threat posed by those who hate the American way of life. Pray, who are those who hate the American way of life? As Arundhati Roy put it in an essay shortly after 9/11, who can possibly hate the American athletes who have shown such dazzling feats of physical striving? Who can possibly hate the American novelists and poets who have shown the world such dazzling feats of the imagination? Who can possibly hate America itself which has bequeathed to the world the democratic ideal, or the unrelenting quest for it?

You ask those same questions and you are bound to get only one answer: George W. Bush and company themselves. They hate the American way of life, if by that is meant the way of

life proposed by Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, Mark Twain and Martin Luther King. The way of life that is resolutely libertarian and dedicated to freedom—other people's as much as one's own.

Americans may look all they want for the causes of 9/11 in the mountains of Afghanistan and the sands of Iraq, but they will not find the answers there. The causes of 9/11 are not outside, they are within. At the very least, that is because 9/11 is the inevitable consequence of policies that have wreaked more 9/11s upon the world—i.e. the partial list above—before ever that date, or epithet, or incantation, was invented. Chalmers Johnson used the word "blowback" to describe it (that is the title of his book), the consequences, often unwitting, of America's global policies on America itself. Which are not unlike something blowing up in one's face: 9/11 easily qualifies as a "blowback," the direct effect of American policies toward the Middle East. There's a simpler way to put it, one most people, including Americans, will understand. What goes around comes around.

At the very most, that is so because the causes of 9/11 are the same as the causes of Columbine. They reside in the culture of violence that has America in its grip, a culture of violence that is absent in neighboring Canada for example. The residents of a Canadian city just across the river from Detroit do not even lock their doors and windows when they leave the house. Certainly, they do not build arsenals to defend their homes and property. It is a culture that has grown out of paranoia about strangers coming to rape and pilage, which has spawned more paranoia about outsiders coming to extirpate and annihilate. It is a culture that says it's all right when you get irritated with somebody to just drop a bomb at him, or shoot at him, or fire a missile at him.

Kids who bowl at Columbine tend to learn that lesson pretty quick. So do terrorists who howl in Palestine.

9/11 happened in the American heartland. That is so in more ways than one.



Bitter elections killed political civility

ANALYSIS

Ainando Doronila



cent in March. By contrast, Presidents Corazon Aquino, Ramos and Estrada enjoyed high net ratings (on the level of +60) during the first few quarters after they took office.

These findings have led the SWS to conclude that the public has not given Ms Arroyo the "post-election victory honeymoon" enjoyed by her three predecessors. The more significant finding is that it shows, according to the SWS, a "very strong relationship between dissatisfaction with the President and the suspicion of cheating in the elections."

This relationship is based on the survey results showing that among those who believed cheating took place in the elections, 63 percent were dissatisfied with Ms Arroyo and only 23 percent were satisfied. On the other hand, among those who believed her opponents were "probably not cheated," 60 percent were satisfied and only 20 percent were dissatisfied. The belief of cheating is strong with Fernando Poe Jr. and running mate, Loren Legarda.

The survey found that 23 percent believed Poe and Legarda were "definitely cheated" and 32 percent said they were "probably cheated," indicating a total of 55 percent doubted the official election results that showed Ms Arroyo trounced Poe by more than one million votes.

On the other hand, the survey showed that 24 percent believed Poe and Legarda were "probably not cheated" and 17 percent said they were "definitely not cheated," indicating that 41 percent accepted the election results, fewer than the 51 percent who did not.

What the surveys results really tell us is that

there is a lingering perception of cheating, a perception that has not waned, and that suggests a strong undercurrent of refusal by a large section of the population to acknowledge her legitimacy. This probably is the message that the administration cannot ignore.

The SWS seemed to be overstating its case when it tried to establish a "very strong relationship between dissatisfaction with the President and suspicion of cheating in the election." This link is tenuous and may be questioned. The survey was taken three months after the elections. While the SWS has produced evidence of a continuing and stubborn perception of cheating, especially among Poe and Legarda partisans, this cannot be the only explanation for the decline in Ms Arroyo's net satisfaction rating. A lot of other variables (which the SWS did not take into account) may have something to do with the dissatisfaction. The survey emphasized past grievance and did not measure post-election attitudes. For example, the concern over the fiscal deficit heightened after the elections. Public attitude toward how the administration has addressed the issue may account for the level of dissatisfaction.

In measuring levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction, political reality can be distorted by ignoring the context of issues that make the public dissatisfied. Focusing solely on the perception of cheating encourages the grievances of election losers to fester and contributes to the atmosphere that does not make a political honeymoon possible.

In any case, the last elections opened a new chapter in political competition characterized by the demise of civility. The administration and the public should stop thinking of the "political honeymoon" as a magic formula for a successful and effective presidency. Delivering results offers a better chance for gaining legitimacy than waiting for a honeymoon to happen. The message of the survey is that the administration should create its own opportunities to get things done. Sore losers cannot be allowed to determine what should make the public satisfied or dissatisfied.

'Alalay'

I HAD offered a friend of mine a ride to her obstetrician for a prenatal check-up. Imagine my surprise when I got into my car and discovered it was full. Besides my friend, there was her brother, a male cousin and a male friend of the brother. "So, who's the pregnant one?" I quipped.

In retrospect, I really shouldn't have been surprised. Whether it's going off to see a movie, or to the market, or even to the toilet, we're always looking for someone to go with us. Conversely, we're always getting offers to be escorted: "Sana ako. (Let me go with you.)"

All this is part of the *alalay* institution. Curiously, the word originally referred to a prop or mechanical support, as well as to the care or gentleness with which we carry something. These days, it means all that, as well as the person who gives the support or care. I'd say that it's this system that prepared us so well to become caregivers to the world.

Hyper-social folks

Why are the *alalay* and *bantay* systems so entrenched in our society? On the surface, it seems to reflect our congenitality. We're a hyper-social lot, hating to be alone, and we presume everyone else shares that fear.

There may be pragmatic reasons as well to this sociality, dating way back to a risk-laden past, especially around travel. Trips were long, and fraught with dangers, real (such as bandits) and imagined (the many supernatural denizens). Under those circumstances, only the foolhardy would have ventured on a trip without an *alalay*.

Maybe I shouldn't have said "risk-laden past", even today, we'd think twice about going off alone in our urban jungles, still swarming with bandits and assorted flying and crawling creatures of the night. And for many of our overseas workers, the long goodbyes with each deployment reminds us that they face as many uncertainties as our ancestors did two or three centuries ago. Again, there's always comfort knowing a loved one goes off to work in Saudi, with someone we know.

The *alalay* is there for all kinds of difficult situations. Note how government offices are often filled with people because many Filipinos find our bureaucracies, and the red tape, to be daunting that they bring people with them to help decipher the forms, or to provide moral support during the long wait.

Ultimately though, the numerous *alalay* and *bantay* are there to validate social ties, whether to say, "I'm being the filial child" or "Hey, I'm your loyal employee." It's not just younger people accompanying the elderly. I know many teenagers get truly embarrassed when their parents insist on accompanying them to enroll in schools, for example.

Of course, the more cynical among us will say, too, that the *alalay* is there to validate social ties during crucial times, such as a serious illness, as a subtle way of reminding a dying relative to make sure the will is in place, with all faithful relatives accounted for.

Under the bed

The *alalay* system isn't all that great though, sometimes creating serious problems. We've seen that at airports, with entire clans and barangay insisting on sending off someone, finally forcing our airport officials to prohibit well-wishers—for both departing and returning passengers—from actually entering airport terminals. In this terrorist-paranoid age, imagine what would happen without those limits on well-wishers: flights wouldn't be able to take off given the delays with screening thousands of these *alalay*.

Hospital administrators, too, complain about the endless *alalay* patients get, a plague that starts as early as the time when the patient is being admitted, accompanied by any number ranging from five to a dozen people storming the emergency room, each one volunteering his or her version of the patient's illness or accident, while getting in the way of doctors, nurses and other patients.

Once admitted, the bevy of relatives and friends accompanies the patient to the room or ward, each one offering to be a *bantay*, literally a watcher, who will stay overnight. Most hospitals claim to limit the number of *bantay* to one per patient, but have no choice but to pretend they don't see the extra ones who insist on staying. I've actually seen some of them climbing into the patient's bed, or under the bed, to spend the night.

The *alalay* and *bantay* claim they're there to support the patient, but can end up aggravating the patient's condition. Mild illnesses turn into major catastrophes as the *alalay* whip themselves into emotional frenzies, sometimes getting more hysterical than the patient, speculating on what the patient should have done to avoid the accident or heart attack, or recounting stories about whose relative once had this exact same disease and how they died in the hands of Dr. So-and-so in this very hospital, why, in this very emergency room. Sometimes I suspect the patients go into shock or into a coma to shut out the *alalay*.

The idle and the 'uzi'

Alas, the *alalay* is sometimes nothing more than another variation of the *uzzi*, short of *assura* or the nosy kibitzer. We just have too many people with nothing better to do so they'll tag along anywhere, any time. Sometimes it's all out of curiosity but other times, especially for the swelling ranks of unemployed, becoming an *alalay* or *bantay* may even have its benefits including free transportation board and lodging. Choose the right benefactor and you can see the world as an *alalay*.

But whether we're dealing with the *idle* or the *uzi*, or someone truly concerned, we do need to rethink this whole *alalay* bit because it's a system that can backfire. Overseas Filipino workers actually postpone visits home because they say it's become too expensive, the airfare is minimal but they dread having to spend on *pasalubong* for all the instant *alalay* who will be at the airport waiting to escort them home.

With patients, a family may already have enough problems looking for ways to pay the hospital bills without having to be burdened with more responsibilities of feeding all the *alalay* and *bantay*, including many who are just totally useless.

Hospitals are finding ways to cut down on this *alalay* business. At the emergency room of the new Medical City hospital, for example, families are politely told that only one *alalay* is allowed per patient, to fill out forms and to answer questions from attending physicians. All other *alalay* are ushered to a special waiting area still within the emergency room but safely sequestered from the patients.

Sometimes the *alalay* flock in because they think the patient wants them around, so it helps if the patient or the immediate family requests well-wishers to visit only after the patient has been discharged from the hospital, and even then, it doesn't hurt to ask that they phone in first before dropping by.

Would that be impolite? I don't think so. It's time we moved away from the *alalay* as nuisance, back to the original intent of support and caring.

Righting injustices in health

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



pitals continue to eat up a large proportion of the health budget, he said. One factor mentioned was the common misconception among local officials and legislators that a "good" health program meant the building of more hospitals that are better appreciated by voters than such an amorphous concept as "public health."

Hard as it is to believe, the linchpin of the national health system, are not the doctors, nurses and hospital workers such as those protesting at the PGH. While they are important and even crucial, the people most responsible for delivering health care at the grass-roots level are the barangay health workers, who receive minimal training and hardly any recognition, and are considered unpaid "volunteers" but expected to provide public health care information and services to their communities.

One of Romualdez's recommended measures has proven controversial, and this is to cut off public hospitals from the government lifeline, and make them dependent on their own income for survival. This surely will raise hackles among hospitals workers, such as those at the PGH, but, having already dramatized their plight, perhaps they could give deeper thought to the plight of the health situation in the country in general.

A COMMENDABLE project is the plan of the Unifem Philippine Committee, chaired by Erlinda Panlilio with Beng Puyat as president, to adapt four cases in the book "Nightmare Journeys," which I authored and which tells the stories of Filipino women survivors of sex trafficking, into a comic book in Filipino.

The comic book, says Panlilio, will be given

away to poor communities that are currently the target of illegal recruiters on the prowl for women to be trafficked here and abroad for purposes of prostitution.

Tony Hidalgo of Milflore Publishing, publisher of the book, has contacted award-winning fictionist in Pilipino Ramon "Mes" de Guzman for the translation. De Guzman has won four Palanca awards for his scripts and has recently been given an NCCA grant for the completion of his first novel.

The comic book illustrator will be Raul "Leggy" Rodriguez who has done a number of comic books in Pilipino and won the grand prize in the drawing category of the latest Art Association of the Philippines competition.

Unifem's initial plan, said Panlilio, is to publish 5,000 copies of the comic book to be printed in full color, at an estimated cost of P360,000. But for these ambitious and socially worthy plans to come to fruition, sponsors will have to be found. Those interested in partnering with Unifem on the comic book on trafficking may get in touch with either Panlilio or Puyat or any Unifem committee member for the details.

WOMENLEAD, a feminist legal advocacy group, is spearheading for the Alternative Law Group Inc., a Policy Conference to be held next Monday, Sept. 20, from 1-4 p.m. at the South Wing of the Batasan Complex. Lawyers and legal scholars from ALG, a coalition of 15 legal advocacy organizations, will be presenting to members of the 13th Congress their six-point policy agenda which includes: reproductive health care, juvenile justice, national land use policy, amendments to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and Emancipation Patents, amendments to the labor law, and local sectoral representation. The agenda, based on social justice and human rights, was crafted in consultation with lawmakers, NGO networks and basic sectors.

Co-sponsoring the conference are the Reproductive Health Advocacy Network (RHAN), Task Force LSR, People's ALARM and the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD).

Vision of a Golden Age

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



town, near Tandag, Surigao del Sur. He was moving part of a 30-foot high hill, filling in marshy ground to define an irrigation channel. He noticed glinting metal flying into the air with each sweep of the shovel. Worried that he might have hit ore or buried wreckage which could damage the equipment, he idled the motor and went down to investigate. The glinting metal turned out to be gold jewelry. He grabbed a sack, and stuffed it with as much as he could, not even bothering to turn off the bulldozer. The other workers saw him and started to claw away at the soil.

As darkness fell, residents in the area went to investigate why the bulldozer was left running. The story got out. Within days. Hundreds of treasure hunters were digging up the site.

Berto had gone to a priest whom he trusted. And who eventually accompanied him to Manila. They hailed a cab, and told the driver they wanted to go to where antique shops were. The driver, sensing them to be liars, took them for a ride, but in the end deposited them in Ermura. By luck, they ended up with an old hand at excavated material, who was able to deal the pieces.

The accidental find consisted of not less than 15 and up to 30 kilograms in total. The retrievers divided some of the loot simply by hacking them in half. Pieces were sold to scrap gold dealers. The more knowledgeable sold pieces to antique dealers and collectors.

What I find amusing is that the present Villegas book opens with a quote from his 1983 work,

"The Philippine Jewelry Tradition" (Volume III of the beautiful Kayamanan Series published by the BSP). After two decades we are very much where we started with a story that borders on urban legend. We don't even know Berto's name or what became of him. Did he, as all fairy tales end, "live happily ever after"?

We have not spoken to anyone who was there during the "discovery" in 1981, so how will we know why and how all that gold got there in the first place? The site was not systematically excavated by trained archaeologists, thus associated materials that were with the gold were discarded.

This has been the sad fate of our pre-colonial history. In the last 50 years, so much porcelain has been excavated and sold in our antique shops, leading to the destruction of archaeological sites and further obliterating a past that could provide perspective to our present.

All we have now are the gold artifacts in the BSP that were saved for the nation by former Central Bank Governor Jaime C. Laya who convinced the Monetary Board to acquire these at a time when they were surfacing in Manila antique shops from the south. If these came out today, one wonders where they would have ended up.

Villegas is of the opinion that 30 percent of the so-called Sungao treasure was purchased by the BSP; 40 percent is in private collections, and the rest irretrievably lost because they had been melted.

The BSP gold collection as it stands today can still be studied scientifically. That is, if we are willing to sacrifice some of the artifacts to determine the purity of the gold and how this was achieved. Will there be a way to date these artifacts scientifically rather than just guessing based on style and/or associated artifacts uncovered with them? At the very least, these artifacts provide us in the depressed present a vision of a past Golden Age.

Comments are welcome at ocampo@ateneo.edu

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

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Root cause of fiscal crisis

THE FISCAL morass the country is now in can be attributed to only two basic problems: the public debt and the tax effort.

The budget deficit is not the real problem; it is only an effect of the ballooning debt. The government incurs a yearly deficit due to the high budget allocation for debt service (P543 billion this year and P646 billion for 2005).

Regarding the public debt, we are on the right track in religiously paying interest and principal every year. The debt is something we have to live with since it is already there. The only way to mitigate this problem is to keep on paying until it goes down to a manageable level. At the rate we are going, the present debt of P4.83 trillion could be liquidated in about 20 years, if and only if the government stops altogether

its borrowing binge.

So the first logical recourse is to stop borrowing to fund the deficit. Additional borrowing should only be limited to funding very vital projects which are income-generating. But how then do we fund the deficit since only 29 percent of the national budget is left to run the bureaucracy?

The question leads to the second problem: the tax effort, or the amount of taxes collected as a percentage of the gross domestic product. Data culled from the Inquirer show that our tax effort in 1997 was 17.0 percent of GDP. Then it drastically dropped by 1.4 percentage points to 15.6 percent in 1998 and gradually settled to 12.3 percent last year.

A study made by a World Bank economist, V. Tanzi, in 1987 revealed statistical evidence that tax efforts rise with per capita

GNP. In his data from 86 countries, he showed that for a per capita GNP of \$850-\$1,300, the tax effort range is 14.0 percent to 22.5 percent. Interpolating the value for the Philippines, which has a per capita GNP of \$1,100 in 2003, our tax effort should be about 16.75 percent. The present revenue collection therefore is short by 4.25 percent based on the projected 12.5 percent tax effort for 2004. Just how much is 4.25 percent of GDP (roughly P5,000)? The shortfall is P212 billion which even exceeds our present deficit.

Another study for the period 1998-2002 revealed that annual leakages from income taxes and value added taxes amounted to an average of P127 billion. This was supported by a government study in 2002, which claimed that the total tax loss would reach P243



billion if other taxes are included. In these studies, it was shown that corporations and professionals contributed 95 percent of the leakages. Therefore, by simply increasing our tax effort, we could wipe out the deficit with one fell swoop.

In sum, for the country to eventually extricate itself from debt, the government must:

1. Stop borrowing to fund the deficit while continuing the debt servicing.
2. Launch an all-out tax collection campaign to restore the tax effort to the ideal 16.75 percent level.

—PERMIN T. ROTEA,
215 S.B. Cabahug St.,
Mandaue City,

Rice crisis also looms

WITH TAX and population control issues hogging the headlines, another crucial one with disastrous consequences has unfortunately been sidelined—the imminent rice crisis.

The Congressional Planning and Budget Department (CPBD) issued a legislative policy prescription called "Enhancing Agricultural Competitiveness." This said prescription was filed last month under House Bill 273. This is aimed to abolish the rice stabilization function of the National Food Authority and remove the quantitative restriction on rice importation, even as the law clearly

provides that the NFA has the sole authority to import rice for security stocks. In simple terms, this proposal will allow big private rice businesses to wrestle control over volumes of rice imports and manipulate market prices at the expense of poor consumers and small farmers.

The privatization of rice importations is ill-advised. The CPBD prescription actually resurrects a legislative proposal jilted several times in Congress. It insists on a strategy of agriculture sector growth within the framework of rice trade liberalization.

The national daily consumption of rice is 27,000 metric tons per day. Take note that the trend is increasing world rice prices while global supply is getting scarce. China continues to stockpile and, within the year, will most probably deplete the rice supply in the region, leaving us with no other source of affordable supply.

So heaven forbid, but once a deficiency in the government's rice buffer stock occurs, it will pave the way for unscrupulous private traders with massive volumes of rice stocks to dominate the market. And then we will soon experience a precarious stock position similar to the 1995 rice crisis, during which corrupt traders shrewdly amassed tons of rice

—ROMAN A. SANCHEZ,
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RP asked to support Taiwan's UN bid

IN SEPTEMBER this year, The Republic of China (Taiwan) will again seek membership in the United Nations at the 59th session of the General Assembly. And as it has done so 11 times in the past, the People's Republic of China is expected to once again block Taiwan's bid to rejoin the international body, on the ground that there is only "one China."

But is there only "one China"? The reality today is that there is Communist China, a country with more than 1.2 billion people whose government, led by the Communist Party, keeps a tight lid on all political dissent and suppresses human rights even as it allows free enterprise so it can become a regional economic power.

And there is Taiwan whose 23 million people, who have been ruling themselves since 1912, have transformed their territory into one of the most economically advanced countries in Asia, through a government that fully respects human rights and allows democracy to flourish.

For all intents and purposes, therefore, Taiwan is a free and peace-loving nation that should be left alone to chart its own destiny.

Beijing's untransigent "one-China" policy has become less and less believable as the international community recognizes its irrational and illogical character. Fifteen countries from Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, recently submitted to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan a proposal to allow Taiwan's membership. They cite the right of the 23 million Taiwanese to be represented in the UN system. These countries likewise point out that Taiwan's exclusion from the UN is unjust because it contradicts the principle of universal participation that the UN upholds. They are thus asking the UN to stop its "policy of political apartheid" against Taiwan, which is willing to carry out its obligations under the UN Charter because it adheres to the UN ideals of international peace and security, respect for human rights and sustainable development.

The move by these 15 countries to ask the UN to accept Taiwan into its fold is truly laudable in the face of Beijing's strong-arm and bullying tactics in the international arena. Recently, People's Liberation Army troops once again staged another military drive in the southern province facing Taiwan to simulate an invasion of the island. The war drills, coupled with shrill and hawkish rhetoric from the Chinese leaders, gave the distinct impression that Communist China is interested only in "reunification" even if it must wipe off Taiwan from the face of the earth with the more than 500 missiles it has targeted at the Taiwanese people.

Taiwan wants to gain membership in the UN because it wants to share its economic and social achievements with the rest of the world, particularly with the developing countries. We ask the Philippine government to show moral courage and the Filipino people to support Taiwan's bid for UN membership. Taiwan's reentry to the UN will be a step forward in our common quest for long-term peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

ROBERT T.J. SHIH,
director, Information Division,
Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office, Low
Rise Tower, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil J. Puyat
cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City



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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Pangasinan restores grand, old buildings

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Lingayen, Pangasinan

A"RETURN to heritage" wind is blowing over Pangasinan, with the provincial government and the private sector working hand in hand to restore historical buildings to their original grandeur.

The first to be restored, and probably the most appropriate as it is the seat of the provincial government, is the Capitol, a neoclassical building built during the term of Gov. Daniel Maramba between 1917 and 1918.

Gov. Victor Agbayani tapped the services of restoration architect Luis Mata, formerly connected with the Intramuros Administration and now teaching architecture at the University of the Philippines, to restore a capitol that is "faced with serious defacement and loss of historical value."

The project has been going on for a year now, and may take another year to complete, the governor said.

In another part of the capital town of Lingayen, another building, the Casa Real, is begging to be restored. The Casa Real, built in the 1850s, is the former capitol.

Agbayani formed the Pangasinan Task Force Museum in 2000 to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a museum and to identify a structure for the purpose.

Casa Real

Arabela Arcinue, one of the vice chairs of the task force, suggested that the Casa Real be restored to its original form and converted into a provincial museum.

The National Historical Institute declared the Casa Real a national historical landmark in 2002 but an official marker to formalize its status has yet to be put on the building.

The marker is important because the building is occupied by several national government and local offices, Arcinue said. "We need the landmark to enable us to ask the offices to transfer so we can start the restoration."

The Casa Real had been the seat of the provincial government until 1918, when the "new" capitol facing the Lingayen Gulf was built.

The vacated structure was used as an elementary school for three years before it housed two branches of the regional trial court and other offices.

Original materials

During World War II, Japanese soldiers gathered and tortured prisoners in the Casa Real. The building still carries its original materials but needs urgent repair.

"The still intact adobe walls, ornate ceilings and wooden flooring of the second floor are mute witnesses to the history of the people as well of the province. If the building could only talk, it would say, 'Please restore and preserve me for posterity. My story is your province's history,'" Arcinue said.

The original plans of the present capitol were missing and only a photograph of the building was available at the Filipinas Heritage Library of the Ayala Foundation.

The Ayala Museum has also been keeping a photograph of the building when it was inaugurated on Feb. 10-19, 1919. The inauguration "featured an agricultural and industrial fair, a carnival, parades and benefit balls," documents showed.

"The impressive provincial capitol (is) among the notable neo-classical style buildings in the Philippines," said Mata, who has researched on the building's history.

Construction of the building was supervised by Ralph Harrington Duane, a consulting architect of the public works and highways department during the American period. The structure is characterized by the use of columns, entablatures (structures supported by columns) and pediments.

Imposing columns

It also features "imposing and colossal" columns typical of American architecture that "stands for democracy and strength of the government," Mata said.

Sculptures of a lion and eagles are found in the building. Written on the upper portion is the birth year (1918) and a message on its construction ("by the government for the administration of a civil state... promoting life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness").

More sculptures of eagles are perched on pedestals near the stairways, as if "guarding" the building.

The three-story building sits atop a podium. Its spacious rooms have high ceilings and large windows.

The building is located in front of the historic Lingayen Gulf, where American Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his troops landed on Jan. 9, 1945.

But accounts from local elders said the capitol could have been in ruins when MacArthur landed there because the structure was bombed by the Japanese during the war.

During the administration of Gov. Enrique Braganza (1946-51), the capitol, together with the schoolhouses and municipal buildings of Lingayen, was restored to its original

grandeur through the Philippine Rehabilitation Act passed by the US Congress in 1946.

Serious loss

Because of natural aging, neglect and numerous alterations, the provincial capitol is now facing "a serious defacement and loss of cultural and historical value," Mata said. It would further deteriorate if it is not properly conserved, he said.

The provincial government has more offices and employees now and additional "floors (mezzanines)" were built to house them. Air-conditioning units are mounted on walls around the building and the original wooden windows have been changed with glass windows, he said.

Air from the sea has also damaged the iron and wood parts of the building, Mata said.

PANGASINAN A10



THE PROVINCIAL Capitol in Lingayen town

RAY ZAMBRANO

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TEXTBOOK COUNT 2

Schedule and allocation of textbooks per region

Region/Division	No. of Recipient Elem.	No. of School Districts	No. of High Schools	GRAND TOTAL		Delivery Schedule
				TOTAL	TX/TM/LP	
GRAND TOTAL- ZONE 3	6,522	563	1,383	2,128,387		
VI TOTAL	3,058	281	523	1,118,387		
Regional Office				4,242	Sept 20 - Oct 15	
Alaminos	274	19	53	74,616	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Angeles	421	22	44	311,094	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Iloilo	654	50	146	274,217	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Negros Occidental	556	39	114	210,554	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Cebu	389	18	38	138,721	Sept 27 - Oct 8	
Guimaras	107	8	15	20,000	Oct 4 - 5	
Passi City	32	2	5	10,000	Oct 4 - 5	
Bacolod City	48	7	14	20,000	Oct 4 - 5	
Bacolod City	44	7	20	62,564	Oct 4 - 5	
Cadiz City	51	4	11	10,000	Oct 4 - 5	
Siquijor	27	4	10	17,171	Oct 4 - 5	
Roxas City	38	3	11	14,147	Oct 6 - 8	
Bago City	26	4	7	25,630	Oct 11 - 13	
San Carlos City	59	5	5	14,016	Oct 11 - 13	
Kabankalan City	56	3	18	24,947	Oct 11 - 13	
Sagay City	51	3	11	21,951	Oct 11 - 15	
La Carlota City	22	3	4	13,233	Oct 13 - 15	
VII TOTAL	2,815	176	586	886,868		
Regional Office				3,444	Sept 20 - Oct 15	
Negros Oriental	486	23	64	169,223	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Bohol	836	52	105	148,798	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Cebu	866	60	198	250,518	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Lapu-Lapu City	43	4	22	39,393	Sept 27 - Oct 5	
Cebu City	67	10	38	97,455	Sept 27 - Oct 8	
Dumaguete City	18	2	6	11,319	Sept 29 - Oct 1	
Tagbilaran City	16	1	5	11,751	Oct 4 - 6	
Siquijor	56	3	14	12,142	Oct 4 - 6	
Tierra City	48	4	12	23,474	Oct 4 - 6	
Bacolod City	35	2	5	15,024	Oct 11 - 13	
Danao City	39	1	8	12,278	Oct 11 - 13	
Bayawan City	47	2	10	20,912	Oct 13 - 15	
Tacay City	20	2	9	16,020	Oct 13 - 15	
Tandag City	36	2	10	13,525	Oct 13 - 15	
VIII TOTAL	2,848	192	542	722,935		
Regional Office				1,602	Sept 20 - Oct 15	
Eastern Samar	371	25	44	94,370	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Northern Samar	428	30	52	77,179	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Samar	491	32	55	74,893	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Leyte	942	62	111	264,040	Sept 20 - Oct 1	
Southern Leyte	284	17	48	74,634	Sept 27 - Oct 5	
Catbalogan City	107	7	10	19,012	Oct 4 - 6	
Ormoc City	74	4	8	24,980	Oct 4 - 6	
Tacloban City	34	5	8	35,377	Oct 5 - 8	
Biliran	517	9	16	36,900	Oct 11 - 15	
GRAND TOTAL- ZONE 4	7,951	551	1,341	3,386,985		
XI TOTAL	1,838	114	274	855,414		
Regional Office				1,355	Sept 20 - Oct 15	
Zambales del Norte	569	35	83	139,786	Oct 18 - 29	
Capez City	48	5	9	14,060	Oct 18 - 29	
Zambales del Sur	555	32	71	160,663	Oct 18 - 29	
Dejoria City	36	4	9	23,717	Sept 27 - Oct 1	
Zambales Subray	369	16	52	123,123	Nov 2 - 15	
Pagadian City	60	5	14	34,742	Nov 2 - 15	
Zambales City	163	12	30	136,179	Nov 2 - 15	
Isabela City	34	5	6	21,379	Nov 9 - 15	

Region/Division	No. of Recipient Elem.	No. of School Districts	No. of High Schools	GRAND TOTAL		Delivery Schedule
				TOTAL	TX/TM/LP	
X TOTAL	1,832	132	237	715,307		
Regional Office				2,100	Oct 18 - Nov 15	
Mesanes Oriental	351	24	45	131,522	Oct 18 - 29	
Lanao del Norte	236	24	26	80,536	Oct 21 - Nov 4	
Cagayan de Oro City	67	9	24	89,378	Oct 25 - Nov 4	
Misamis Occidental	263	15	21	40,256	Oct 28 - Nov 11	
Oriaga City	41	4	7	14,073	Oct 28 - Nov 11	
Bukidnon	475	21	38</td			

Pangasinan restores grand, old buildings

"We are trying to recapture the original style and character of the heritage structure without compromising its functions. Instead, the building's design and

function will be enhanced with minimum intervention," he added.

When the restoration is completed and the capitol is back to its original design and

beauty, it will be another tourist come-on for the province, complementing the World War II memorabilia at the back of the building, provincial officials said.

Agbayani said Casa Real would be the next structure that the provincial government would restore.

He said he had a "personal and sen-

timental" reason for restoring the provincial Capitol. He said his grandfather, Donato Agbayani, a carpenter from Ilocos Norte, was one of the workers who built it.



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225 NIA workers set for layoff appeal for separation benefits

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The weight of the fiscal crisis has come heavy on those who helped build and maintain the irrigation network in three provinces in Luzon.

At least 225 National Irrigation Administration employees due for retrenchment appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to set aside P50 million for them and what could be their last project.

In a manifesto they submitted to the President on Monday, the employees of the NIA's Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project (ARIIP) said the amount represented five-and-a-half months of their wages, salaries and benefits, including unpaid remittances to the Government Service Insurance System, Home Development Mutual Fund and PhilHealth.

It also included overhead expenses and balance of the rehabilitation work on the Agno River irrigation system that they operate alongside the lower Agno River irrigation system and Ambayoan-Dipalo River irrigation system.

All in all, these irrigation networks serve almost 34,000 hectares in 31 towns and cities in Pangasinan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

The employees traced their layoff, described to be the "worst employment trouble" to hit NIA in almost 50 years, to the "abrupt decision" of NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras to "close" the ARIIP.

The project is the irrigation component of the San Roque Multi-Purpose Dam Project, an electricity-generating dam in

San Manuel, Pangasinan.

The ARIIP, according to project reports, seeks to rehabilitate the three systems and build a regulating pond for the dam's excess water.

The project, estimated to cost P9.16 billion, is planned to irrigate 70,800 hectares.

In the same letter, the employees said ARIIP was given no allocation in the 2004 and 2005 budgets.

"Many of us do not have businesses, and are less than content with the meager earnings we receive in making both ends meet," they said in the eight-page manifesto.

"Much more, many of us would be short of the number of years of service to avail of the benefits from retirement plans of the government, and the chance of entering another government office would be slimmer and dimmer because of age requirements," they said.

Those who signed the manifesto belonged to the administrative, engineering, institutional development, equipment management and construction divisions of NIA.

Reports on the closure of the ARIIP prompted 98 irrigators' associations in the three Luzon provinces to air appeals for its continuation.

In a separate four-page manifesto, they said the improvement of irrigation facilities would boost rice and vegetable production. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

'Enormous,' cop says of job to solve mediamen's murders

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Solving the killings of Filipino journalists, already 55 since the restoration of democracy in 1986, is an "enormous" job, said Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, incoming deputy chief of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"It is an enormous task because although there are some initial successes, there are many things to be done," Mendoza, who will also head the Task Force Newsman, said in Tuesday's turnover rites when he relinquished his post at the Pampanga police command here.

He said with "the nature and characteristics of fugitive killers, it's really hard to initiate manhunt and arrest operations against the suspects."

The demand was contained in the petition, which was filed by the Metro Cebu Taxi Operators Association (MCTOA) on Monday at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board office in Central Visayas (LTFRB-7).

But Richard Cabucus, MCTOA president, said he was not hopeful that their petition would be granted, considering that the LTFRB office in Manila has rejected a similar petition

Mendoza said he would tap his media network as head of the task force formed to investigate and lead in the prosecution of suspected killers of journalists.

"It will really be a significant thing if the media sector will help and assist," he said.

Director General Edgardo Aglipay, Philippine National Police chief, has vowed to solve all murder cases that victimized journalists.

But Aglipay also acknowl-

edged that putting the killers to justice had been slow. Since August, the suspects in the slaying of two journalists have been arrested, he said.

Guillermo Wapile, a former policeman and one of two suspected gunmen in the murder of Pagadian City radio commentator Edgar Damalerio, surrendered on Monday.

He surrendered after what police called "months of negotiations."

The major skills of Mendoza, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (Class 1978), are on counterinsurgency and intelligence operations.

Mendoza, even as chief of the

Pampanga police, handled special research projects and proposals for the PNP.

These include subjects such as the Philippine Jihad Inc., the alliance between the New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, combating terrorism, barangay screening system and retooling police criminal investigation.

His three-year stint in Pampanga led to a string of achievements that included a crackdown on counterfeit drugs, a Korean syndicate involved in credit card fraud, and on government agents behind several kidnappings of foreigners. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cebu taxi operators ask for P5 fare hike

By Jhunex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Taxi operators in Metro Cebu are seeking a P5 increase in flagdown rate to offset their losses brought about by the series of oil price adjustments.

The demand was contained in the petition, which was filed by the Metro Cebu Taxi Operators Association (MCTOA) on Monday at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board office in Central Visayas (LTFRB-7).

But Richard Cabucus, MCTOA president, said he was not hopeful that their petition would be granted, considering that the LTFRB office in Manila has rejected a similar petition

filed by the Association of Taxi Operators in Metro Manila (ATOM).

The current flagdown rate of the taxicabs in Metro Cebu is P25 for the first 500 meters and P2 for the succeeding 300 meters and another P2 for every two minutes waiting time.

Jose Douglas Sanson, LTFRB regional legal officer, said MCTOA sought an increase in flagdown rate from P25 to P30 and from P2 to P2.50 for the succeeding 300 meters.

They also asked that the rate for every two minutes waiting time be increased by 50 centavos or from P2 to P2.50, he added.

Sanson said MCTOA sent the petition to the LTFRB office on Sept. 8 but it was formally accepted

last Monday after the group paid P520 in filing fee.

He said the public hearing on the petition was set on Sept. 23 at 2 p.m. at the LTFRB regional office in Mandaua City.

Still, Cabucus remained pessimistic on the outcome of their petition. "What then can we expect here if (their petition) in Metro Manila was rejected," he said.

He said they would not mind if the LTFRB would only grant an increase in the flagdown rate and not in the succeeding meters and the waiting time.

Any increase will be helpful, he added, as most of their big operator-members are already forced to put half of their units on standby after their drivers decided to

stop driving due to heavy losses following the series of oil price hikes.

Cabucus owns Taipan and Crisilda taxi, which have 90 units but he claimed that half of these are on standby at his garage because no driver would rent them.

He said taxi operators in Metro Cebu dropped the rental of their units per day from P700 to P600 to cushion the impact of the oil price adjustments.

"But still the drivers are not entitled to continue driving. I don't know why," he added.

The MCTOA members are operating more than 2,000 taxi units or at least 60 percent of the total taxi units running in Metro Cebu area.

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PROGRAM

Postgraduate Course Day 1 - September 17, 2004

7:30 8:30 Registration
6:30 8:40 Invocation: Celeste C. Tanchoco, MPH, RND
8:40 8:45 National Anthem
8:45 9:00 Welcome Remarks - Augusto D. Lilonjua, MD

9:00 9:15 Inspirational Talk: Jose Asa Sabili, MD - PMA Vice President

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

Chair: Sanrose S. Orbela, MS, RD, FADA

Risk of Obesity: The Impact of Obesity on Health

- Augusto D. Lilonjua, MD

Opening of Exhibits

SESSION I

Chair: Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD

Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Evaluation

- Soksoen Chan-Cue, MD

Non-Pharmacologic Strategies of Weight Management

- Dietary Composition & Weight Reduction

- Mrs. Celeste Tanchoco, MPH, RND

Non-Pharmacologic Strategies of Weight Management

- Role of Increasing Physical Activity

- Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD

OPEN FORUM

Lunch Symposium of ROCHE

Metabolic Syndrome - Professor John Foreyt

Break

Chair: Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD

Optimizing Weight Management Through Pharmacologic Therapy - Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD

Bariatric Surgery: Who, When & How? - Hildegardis Dieter, MD

OPEN FORUM

Breakfast Sessions Workshop

A. Assessment & Workup of Obese Patients - Prof. Ian Caterson

B. Approach to Weight Management - Prof. John Foreyt

Health Break

Successful Management of the Obese Patients

- Professor John Foreyt

Outcome of Weight Management - Ramon F. Abarquez, Jr, MD

CLOSING CEREMONY - Sanrose S. Orbela, MS, RD, FADA

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Chair: Sanrose S. Orbela, MS, RD, FADA

Regional Advisor: Non-Communicable Diseases

Western Pacific Regional Office

PLenary 1

Chair: Ruby T. Go, MD

Worldwide Obesity Patterns & Their Determinants

- Professor Ian Caterson

Break

Chair: Roberto C. Mirasol, MD

Hormones and Energy - Is There a Relationship?

- Augusto D. Lilonjua, MD

Cardiovascular Risks & Co-Morbidities

- Ramon F. Abarquez, Jr, MD

Metabolic Risks in Early Childhood Obesity - Soksoen Chan-Cue, MD

OPEN FORUM

LUNCH SYMPOSIUM of ABBOTT

Modern Obesity Treatment - It Works! - Professor Ian Caterson

Break

Chair: Soksoen Chan-Cue, MD

Psychological Strategies to Weight Mgt. - Professor John Foreyt

Chair: Edgardo I. Tolentino, MD

High Carb or High Protein Diet

- Ruby T. Go, MD vs. Soksoen A. Kho, MD

Is Pharmacotherapy Essential to Weight Mgt?

- Sanrose S. Orbela, MS, RD, FADA vs. Gerry H. Ten, MD

The Fast Food Craze - Boon or Bane?

- Dr. Catherine Castañeda vs. Mr. Jose Bayani Baylon

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Cebu victims find drugs, cell phone theft linked

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WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15,

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Across the NATION

Retired Army execs seek higher pension

COTABATO CITY—Some 600 retired members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines appealed for an increase in their monthly pension to help them cope with rising prices of basic commodities.

"The present pension is no longer reasonable to meet our day-to-day needs with prices of goods, medicines and services getting higher and higher," said retired Army Col. Rollin Erasmo, spokesperson of the AFP Retirees Association (AFTRA).

According to Erasmo, the group is aware of the government's predicament "but priority should also be given to AFTRA members," many of whom are disabled who need medical attention "to enjoy the remaining years of their retired military career."

Long before the fiscal crisis gripped the government, the group came up with a petition asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to look after complaints on "meager and unpaid monthly pension," said the 65-year-old spokesperson, who once served as chief of staff of the Army's 5th Infantry Division.

Early appeal

Early this year, Erasmo sought the assistance of Virgilio Leyretana, then deputy presidential assistant for Mindanao, who vowed to bring the matter to the attention of Malacañang and top officials of the AFP.

Leyretana, recently designated Mindanao Peace and Development Fund (MPDF) executive director with a rank of undersecretary, said the region's AFP retirees should bear the burden and understand the government's monetary problem that retirees from other agencies are also encountering.

He said he will see how the MPDF can come in to resolve the retirees' plight in the realm of "promoting social justice and sustainable peace."

"It hurts to know that active members of the military are enjoying the fruits of the salary standardization law. We AFP retirees seemed to have been left unattended," said

ROUNDUP

Thieves kill woman, nephew

COTABATO CITY—An elderly businesswoman and her nephew were killed by suspected thieves in Libungan, North Cotabato on Monday. SPO3 Renato Endrina, Libungan deputy police chief, said the suspects, Ramil Garingo and Gilbert Anestiso, admitted they killed 60-year-old Rosita Ty and her nephew Francisco Martin, 22, due to financial difficulty. Endrina said the suspects pretended to be customers wanting to buy empty sacks at the warehouse-store of the victims located near the Cotabato-Davao highway. Garingo, who claimed he stabbed to death Martin, told police the plan was just to rob the victims of cash and valuables. "His (Martin's) resistance forced me to stab him," he said. Anestiso said he repeatedly smashed a rock on the old woman's head when she tried to intervene. "We were broke and out of cash and so we decided to rob the victims and use the loot in our trip to Lebak (a coastal town of Sultan Kudarat)." Anestiso, speaking in the dialect, said. No cash, except for an old Radio wristwatch owned by Ty, was recovered from the suspects, who were arrested inside the victims' well-guarded commercial-residential compound several hours after the late afternoon robbery-slaying, police said.

Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Kids locked in house die in fire

DAVAO CITY—Three children who were left on their own in their locked house were charred to death after a fire hit a slum area in Bolinao Site, Kiometer 12, Sasa district here on Monday afternoon. Fire investigators identified the victims as Jason Tumaya, 6; his brothers Roy Jr., 3, and Eric, 2. FO1 Anthony Ibanez, Lanang Fire Station Investigator, said the fire, which started at around 2 p.m. from the Tumaya residence, also razed 13 other houses. The three children were locked inside their house to prevent them from wandering out in the streets as their parents had to leave to earn a living. Amy, the children's mother sells rice cakes while her husband is a house painter. Amy said the three children were sleeping when she left the house.

Anthony S. Alada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Council rejects IRA cut

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Calapan City council unanimously approved a resolution Sept. 8 vehemently opposing the move of Malacañang to reduce the internal revenue allotment (IRA) of local government units. The ordinance said Calapan City's share in the IRA for 2004 amounted to P196 million. Of the total IRA, about P90 million was appropriated for personnel services, which include salaries and wages of employees and other personnel, P39 million was earmarked as local development fund (LDF) representing the 20 percent IRA and an amount of P11 million or 5 percent was set aside as calamity fund. "The city government of Calapan needs substantial resources to finance the service delivery functions devolved to the LGU and its other requirements, which cannot be funded using the present meager resources," the ordinance said.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cops told to prepare for run

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Be physically fit or you're out. Director General Edgardo Agipay, Philippine National Police chief ordered all policemen to undergo a regular one-kilometer fitness run to test their staying power and remain healthy. Agipay, a native of Camaligan, Camarines Sur, told reporters here on Monday that those who would fail the fitness run would be sent to Corregidor in Batangas or Subic in Zambales for rigorous training. He said he would allow policemen until Oct. 31 to prepare for the regular fitness run. As the new police chief, Agipay said he would sanction policemen who were not giving "utmost courtesy" to civilians. Referring his campaign against lazy and incompetent law enforcers, Agipay said he would supervise and monitor police officers and members.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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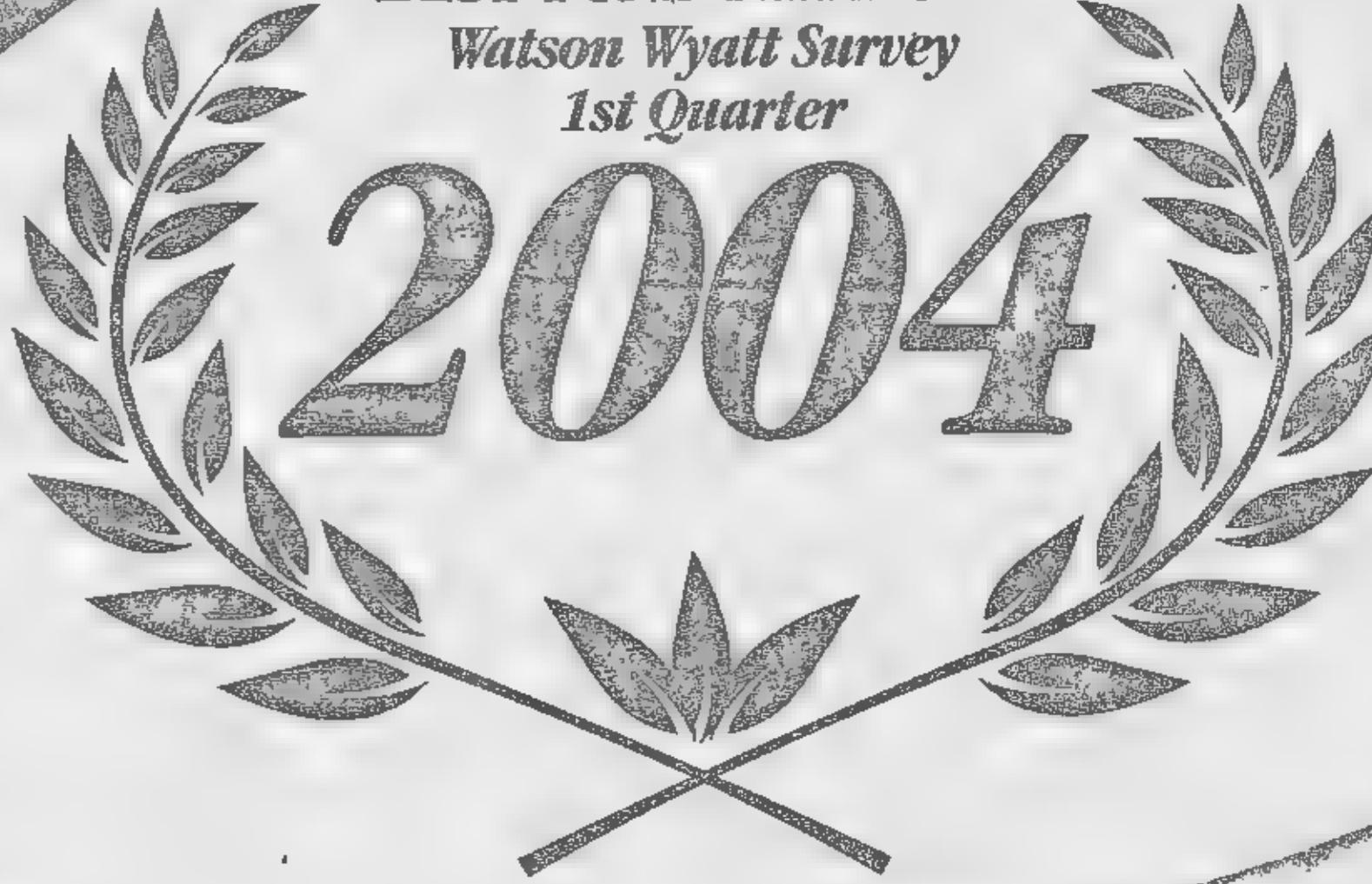
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Figures don't tell the real story

From page A1

The fact is that the figures, which vary depending on who's talking, do not tell the real story.

But of this Supt. Napoleon Taas, PNP intelligence and investigation division chief for Metro Manila, is sure: The problem of cell phone theft and robbery is much worse than the 817 incidents reported nationwide from January to July this year.

"Even if you double the figure, we believe the total number would still be a bit higher," Taas told the INQUIRER, citing informal surveys among patrol officers and a recent Social Weather Stations study showing the crime rate was higher than reported cases.

But the figures appeared to be enough to put phone theft on the PNP's priority list.

Besides the 817 incidents recorded by the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), separate data provided by the Directorate for Intelligence showed a total of 1,322 cases nationwide from March to December last year.

Because the time frames vary, figures can be compared only based on the second quarters of 2003 and 2004. During those periods, incidents dropped by 73.2 percent, from 422 last year to 113 this year.

Still, cell phone theft "highly contributed to the upsurge of street crime nationwide," said the DIDM report.

They comprised 31 percent of the total 2,621 robbery cases and 9.84 percent of the 8,270 street crimes reported from January to July this year. (In the PNP investigation process, phone theft is under the category of robbery, directly under "snatching" together with cases involving bags, purses and jewelry.)

Statistics

Metro Manila, followed by Central Visayas, registered the biggest number of cases in both the 2003 and 2004 records of the DIDM.

From March to December last year, a total of 518 cases were reported in Metro Manila, just 10 more than the incidents recorded in Central Visayas during the same period. Calabarzon ranked a distant third with 55 cases.

This year was no different. Metro Manila registered 288 incidents and Central Visayas, 267.

from January to July, Calabarzon remained in third place with 55 incidents.

A separate report provided by the NCRPO showed only a total of 245 cases in Metro Manila from January to August this year.

Despite the disparity, the rankings of Metro Manila and Central Visayas are a logical indication that there are many where cell phone users are plenty, said PNP intelligence director Robert Delfin, a former Central Visayas regional director.

"There are naturally too many cell phone users in these places because of the bustling commercial activity there. And as a consequence, there are also many thieves as well," Delfin said.

Cebu, etc.

This reality was underscored by Cebu's having the biggest number of cases this year. Of the 13 highly urbanized cities that recorded 323 incidents, it was the highest with 206. Baguio City was a far second with only 17 cases. (See stories in *Across the Nation*, Page A20.)

Lapu-Lapu City, also in Central Visayas, was another favorite of phone thieves. It accounted for 15.85 percent (29 cases) of the total 129 incidents reported in 27 component cities.

In Metro Manila, southern towns and cities had the biggest number of incidents with 107. Manila was second with 74, Quezon City third with 70, northern areas with 24, and the eastern part with only 13.

Pasay, a city notorious for its night life, might soon be made even more so by its thieves. It accounted for 52 cases of cell phone theft, comprising 48.6 percent of the total incidents in Metro Manila.

The other report provided by the NCRPO had a far different set of findings: Quezon City, particularly its Batasan area, is the most dangerous place for cell phone users with a total of 118 cases reported from January to August this year. Barasan alone recorded 29, followed by Cubao with 23.

According to the report, the next area of concentration for thieves is Manila, which registered at least 106 incidents during the same period. Sta. Cruz, a highly congested labyrinth of poorly lit side streets, recorded 28 cases.

For PO1 Ariel Eufemio, Cubao

Nokia backs fight vs cell phone theft

FOLLOWING is a statement from Nokia, the leading manufacturer of cell phones:

We endorse industry efforts to fight the theft of mobile phones and believe that IMEI integrity is an important aspect of product security.

The IMEI in our mobile phones is secured by using commercially viable tamper-resistant technologies in line with the requirement set by GSM specifications. While every effort is made to implement solutions that resist tampering, some level of risk and uncertainty is inherent in all mobile phone products, in the same way that such risks concern computers and other electronic equipment.

In Quezon City is arguably the most dangerous place in the country for a cell phone user.

Cubao

Since he was assigned to the Kamuning police station last December, the 25-year-old rookie cop has caught seven phone thieves, earning for him the moniker "Kilabot ng mga Snatcher" (snatchers' terror) among his peers.

The number is on top of the 12 he caught when he was still with the Cubao police station near the corner of Edsa and N. Domingo Street, another area he considers a nest of phone snatchers.

"Cubao is dangerous because there are just so many people going there everyday. There's also a nearby squatter area where thieves can hide," Eufemio told the INQUIRER.

In many cases, he said, he and fellow patrol officers lost snatchers in the slums around Cubao.

Sidewalk vendors and jeepney "barkers" add to the problem, said PO1 Gilbert Fuentes.

"Based on our experience, some of them are in connivance with snatchers," he said. "Some vendors hide a stolen phone passed on to them by a thief being pursued. Some barkers identify possible targets."

With Cubao slowly gaining an unsavory image, Kamuning station commander Cesar Hawthorne

It has been brought to our attention that there are some unauthorized and illegal cases in the Philippines of IMEI hacking. We will support the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) in prosecuting such entities according to Philippine laws.

We have taken all necessary steps to work closely with the NTC in efforts to address this matter. Late last year, our security specialist from Finland met with NTC officials to brief them on Nokia's continuous efforts and commitment.

We are closely following developments in this area and are continuously trying to improve the security features in our mobile phones.

Binag tightened security there starting last year.

Two pairs of uniformed cops now patrol the area in 12-hour shifts, one pair along the corner of Edsa and Aurora going to the bus terminals and the other along E. Rodriguez.

By deploying a sufficient number of policemen, the PNP under Director General Edgar Aglipay is hoping to take away the opportunity and means—two essential elements in a crime—from a phone thief, Binag said.

"Snatchers strike when they see an opening, like if there's a student texting in an open area and there's no policeman in sight," Binag said. "A crime is also likely to take place if the thief has the means, say, a weapon, on top of an escape route."

Do's and don'ts

Given the danger, Eufemio advises everyone not to use a cell phone in a public place. If it is absolutely necessary to make a call, one should do it near a policeman or security guard or in an enclosed place like a restaurant, he said.

Another preventive measure involves the cooperation of pawnshop owners.

"As policemen ... we can always check if pawnshops are selling dubious cell phones," Binag said. "But we don't want to be accused of trying to extort money

from these people, so we ask pawnshop owners to regularly report to us whenever a suspicious-looking guy comes to them, selling a mobile phone."

There's also "Oplan: Tatak," a program that will put IDs on cell phones. The PNP plans to start implementing the program initially in Metro Manila this week.

The idea is to have all cell phones engraved with numbers of the owners' choice, Taas said. Thus, authorities can easily contact owners when their phones are recovered or found displayed in second-hand stores.

All phone owners have to do is visit the nearest police station and have their units marked, free of charge, Taas said.

Charge 'em

The recovery of stolen cell phones naturally brings satisfaction to a victim, but sometimes woe to arresting officers.

Of the seven snatchers Eufemio had caught since December, only four were charged before the city prosecutor by their victims. The other victims did not want to go through the hassle of filing a court case.

Such an attitude sends snatchers back to the streets. "It's a vicious cycle that has to stop," Eufemio said.

The rookie cop once caught a thief after a 10-minute chase in Cubao. Edgar Advincula, 26, had snatched the phone of a 19-year-old girl walking with her mother.

Eufemio recovered the unit, a Nokia 3315 (costing roughly P3,300). But the girl balked at filing a case.

"She said she couldn't because she's going abroad," the cop said. "Her mother wasn't interested either. She said she's living in Pangasinan."

If it's any consolation, Eufemio said, Advincula was charged with illegal possession of a deadly weapon, for the fan knife he was carrying. But based on a Quezon City ordinance, the maximum penalty is 30 days in jail.

Advincula, supposedly a known "Bahala Na" gang member, posted bail of P2,000. He's back in the streets.

P10,000 bail

Who is to blame for the upsurge in cell phone theft? (See story in Business, Page B1.)

And should victims be blamed for their apathy?

In the first place, the judicial process is such that it takes a long, tedious and expensive process to prosecute someone who stole, say, a P5,000 cell phone. Add to this the fact that cell phone theft is bailable by only P10,000 and that a convicted thief may be jailed for only 6-12 years, according to Eufemio.

Fuentes, his fellow patrol officer, theorized that big crime syndicates were behind the rash of cell phone thefts, as suggested by the ease with which arrested snatchers were able to raise bail.

There's also the nagging fear that the snatcher's cohorts can get back at a complainant, Fuentes said.

"I think our present law is somewhat lax. Maybe Congress can pass a special law doing away with bail for a phone thief," Eu-femio said.

He also suggested that the law be amended allowing police to serve as complainants so cases could still prosper even if the victims had lost interest.

Creativity

NCRPO records show that police "solved" 42.8 percent or 105 of the total 245 cases reported from January to August this year.

A case is deemed solved when the thief/robber has been identified, arrested and charged before a prosecutor, explained Director Avelino Razon Jr., NCRPO chief.

But according to another officer, in many instances a case is declared solved just because the stolen cell phone had been recovered.

In dealing with seasoned thieves and apathetic victims, Binag said police could use a bit of "creativity and imagination."

There was a time, he recalled, when he asked his men to take video footage of the Cubao area. With the aid of previously arrested snatchers, police then identified suspected thieves and warned them.

"The idea is to let them know that we know who they are and we're watching them," he said. "But of course, we can't arrest them unless a formal complaint is filed."

Fuentes and fellow patrolmen make it a point to talk regularly with known snatchers in the area. They're convinced that personal reminders may one day make the latter change their ways. Conclusion: Cell phones as major icon of Philippine life

Cell phone stolen? Get even, disable it

From page A1

Every time you call or send a text message, these two numbers are flashed on screens maintained by service providers, such as Smart, Globe and Sun Cellular.

You can access your IMEI by pressing *#06#. It is the 15-digit number inside your phone, usually located near where the SIM card is placed. Be sure to list it down.

Before you pay for a cell phone, press *#06#, and then look up the number inside. See if they match. If they do not, it means the phone has been tampered with.

So your phone was lost or stolen. If you were a postpaid subscriber, immediately inform your Cellular Mobile Telephone System service provider about the loss. The CMTS operator can block the SIM card to ensure that you will not be charged for further calls made on the phone.

Both prepaid and postpaid subscribers should go to the NTC to have the IMEI disabled.

The NTC will prepare the order to block to be sent to all CMTS operators. Blocked IMEIs may be verified on the NTC website www.ntc.gov.ph

The blocking will be done within 24 hours after receipt of the NTC order. It usually takes ef-

A sign of desperation, says text group

By Norman Bordadora

THE RISE in cell phone thefts is a sign of desperation amidst widespread poverty, Text Power, a subscriber-based advocacy group, said yesterday.

According to Text Power spokesperson Trixie Concepcion, developed countries with more cell phones "per square meter" than the Philippines do not have the same problem.

The urgency to make a fast buck is indicative of the country's dire economic situation, she said.

fact within a day, or a week at most.

Once the phone is blocked, the words "SIM registration failed" will appear on the phone every time one tries to access it.

Disabled or blocked phones may be unblocked or "white-listed." Again, the order must come from the NTC. (You may call the NTC's One Stop Public Assistance Center, or Ospac, at 926-7722 or 436-7722, or e-mail ospac@ntc.gov.ph.)

Last 2 digits

On the other hand, Filipino electronic technicians have found

a way to unlock a blocked phone by changing the last two digits of its 15-digit serial number.

At one time, technicians logged on to the NTC website, downloaded its list of blocked mobile phones, and checked if the serial numbers still worked.

When they found one that did, they used the number to unlock a blocked phone and sell it in the market. (Remember, the actual blocking of a stolen phone takes effect within a day to a week.)

Of course, the phone will conk out soon enough, sending the buyer back to the second-hand store to

have his phone changed or fixed.

Such stores usually do not give buyers their money back. They simply hand over another phone.

Government officials trying to stop the sale of stolen or illegal cell phones are dismayed by this "misplaced" skill.

Upgrading

"I wish this talent by our technicians would be used in a positive way," said engineer Danilo Cuenca, head of the NTC's Ospac, which processes up to 50 phone-related complaints daily. 90 percent of them involve stolen units.

The plan has since been abandoned.

Technicians can also upgrade a phone—make its memory bigger, its screen brighter, or its light blink as it rings.

"Filipinos are ingenious," said Cuenca. "In other countries or big service centers, if you have your phone repaired, they will change the whole motherboard. But in small stalls here, technicians will change just the defective part."

He said some second-hand shops would buy old or defective phones because some of the parts could still be used.

"From these parts, they can make another unit—what you call a reconditioned phone," he said.

But there is risk in having your phone upgraded in non-NTC-certified shops, Cuenca said.

Technicians can steal the IMEI and replace it with a blocked one. They can replace the LCD (screen) and battery with old ones. They can tinker with your phone and check if there is anything unusable.

The same ingenuity may have prompted manufacturers to redesign cell phones.

Starting next year, the motherboard can no longer be soldered, according to Cuenca. This means the whole motherboard must be replaced during repair.

"Our advice is simple: Don't tinker with your phone. Leave it

as it is," Cuenca said.

New rules

The NTC has issued two circulars aimed at curbing illegal practices by unauthorized service

Controversy mars BuCor director's resignation

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Nancy C. Carvajal

BUREAU of Corrections (BuCor) Director Dionisio Santiago resigned due to "burn out" and death threats, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

However other reasons are also being cited behind the scenes.

Gonzalez said Santiago visited him yesterday morning and showed him the letter which the BuCor chief sent to Malacañang Monday informing the President of his irrevocable resignation.

"I told him to reconsider but of course, the last word would be the President's," Gonzalez said.

He said he was not aware of reports that Gonzalez left his post because two big-time drug traffickers were able to escape from the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa recently.

Death threats

"I have no knowledge about that," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said Santiago told him that he felt burnt out in his job and that he had been receiving death threats.

The former Army commander and Armed Forces chief of staff did not say who were threatening him, Gonzalez said.

"He said he did not carry a gun before but now he does," the justice secretary said.

But a source who had worked closely with Santiago had another story.

The source said Santiago resigned after Malacañang allocated 900,000 square meters of New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) land in Muntinlupa City for housing without even telling the BuCor chief.

Proclamation 667

President Macapagal Arroyo signed Proclamation 667 in July and took away the land from the BuCor and the scope of the NBP.

To benefit from Arroyo's housing project would be employees of the Office of the President and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from the central office in Quezon City.

The source said Santiago felt bad that he was not consulted about the giving of the land to employees not involved in the Bilibid prisons.

Gonzalez said BuCor Assistant Director Joseito Fajardo would temporarily take over Santiago's post while the Palace decides who would replace him.

MMDA sets up emergency bays

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A DRIVER'S oasis on Edsa.

Motorists will soon have less to worry about should their car breakdown on Metro Manila's main thoroughfare.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has begun building emergency bays, or e-bays, for stalled vehicles on the highway.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando told a press conference that drivers of stalled vehicles could seek shelter for free at the e-bays while they fix the problem or wait for help.

First e-bays on the way

E-bays, which would be 24 meters long and four meters wide, are already being carved out of the center islands off Nepa-Q-Mart and SM Megamall, said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

He added that these first e-bays would be finished in a week.

The traffic chief said they were planning to build e-bays every 250 to 500 meters to cater to distressed motorists.

"Vehicle owners should make sure to park their vehicles within the bays or risk facing fines and towing charges," Fernando said.

Otherwise, the chair said stalled vehicles that block traffic would be towed away and their owners would have to pay P800 for towing and P400 for obstruction.

Maximum of two hours

Fernando said stalled vehicles would be allowed at the e-bays for only two hours. Vehicles going beyond that would be towed away.

"Vehicles should not stay in the e-bays for long because others could use these as parking spaces," Fernando said.

The MMDA would be monitoring the e-bays to make sure that motorists do not overstay or use it for parking.

Fernando said the e-bays would also be constructed in other main thoroughfares such as Quezon Avenue.



STREET SPLASH

Children welcome the sudden downpour on East Avenue in Quezon City belly down on the busy street.

JOAN SUNDOC

8 ignored warning, and paid with their lives

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ANTS were feasting on his skin but Yvesmark Rivera, 9, endured their bite rather than let go of a tree branch that was keeping him alive as the water swelled.

His sister, Yhanny, 13, was already gone. She was one of eight people who died after they were swept away by strong current at the Biak-na-Bato River in San Miguel, Bulacan, Sunday.

The body of the eighth victim, Diether

Capalad, 8, was retrieved only yesterday.

Mary Grace Rivera, 31, was with her children, Yhanny and Yvesmark, when tragedy struck.

She said they had been in the water for an hour when they were told to get out of the river as a drizzle began. But her children, their cousins and friends insisted on going back.

Yvesmark said they were swimming when the water suddenly grew.

At first, it was only up to his knees.

Then, as rain started to pour, the water quickly rose.

Most of the 20 people then in the river were swept away by the strong current.

Some, like Yvesmark and Yhanny managed to hold on to tree branches. But the raging water snatched Yhanny away.

Capalad, Gladys Ganlongo, 9; Mitchlyn Ann Santiago, 7; Bessie Sanchez, 14; Mary Ann Santiago, 26; Mark Robert Pineda, 12, and Mark Allan Pineda, 9, also drowned.

New ticket scheme saves cash for gov't

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE METROPOLITAN Traffic Ticker scheme is saving money for the government, according to Chair Bayani Fernando of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Fernando said that the ticket scheme allowed them to close nine license redemption centers.

"These redemption centers cost us hundreds of thousands monthly in rental fees, electric bills and manpower," he said in a press conference.

The MMDA chair said they spend P50,000 a month for each of the redemption centers, which have recently been closed down following the agency's decision to scrap the Traffic Violation Receipt scheme.

More delays seen in Tumana project

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE SNAIL-PACED construction of the Tumana Bridge in Marikina City has been burdened with other problems that threaten to delay further its completion.

For one, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) had begun the project in February 2003 without an environmental compliance certificate (ECC), a document obtained by the INQUIRER yesterday showed.

The DPWH has apparently not secured the right of way for the bridge's approach on its Marikina side, according to people familiar with the project.

An ECC certifies that a project is not destructive to its immediate surroundings and conforms with the standards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

It must be obtained before construction begins.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact engineer Ray Basista, project chief, for comment.

His office said he was at the construction site and could not be reached by mobile phone.

In his letter to the DPWH project manager on July 28, 2004, DENR-National Capital Region Director Sixto Tolentino Jr. said the department violated DENR rules.

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Archers earn twice-to-beat edge

On-a-roll La Salle shoots down Ateneo Eagles to claim No. 2 spot



ATENEO'S Cris Thu bites to the face of La Salle guard Joseph Casio in their game yesterday.

By Jasmine W. Payo

THERE was no better time for the La Salle Archers to beat their bitterest rivals.

Mac Cardona again powered the La Salle assault, firing 20 points as the Archers thrashed the Ateneo Eagles, 82-69, at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum yesterday to claim the No. 2 spot and the twice-to-beat edge in their Final Four duel in the 67th UAAP senior basketball tournament.

"It's a big win for us. But the series is not yet over," said coach Franz Pumaren after La Salle's seventh straight win that tied Ateneo's win streak record in the first round.

"A team like Ateneo is capable of coming back. We can't be complacent. Remember, they also won 10 games in the eliminations. But I give credit to the (Archers), it was a collective effort."

Defending champions Far Eastern Tamaraws will clash with the University of the East Warriors in the first semifinal battle tomorrow at the Philsports Arena. La Salle and Ateneo battle on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cardona, the league's top scorer with a 15.8-point average, hit 13 points and proved unstoppable early on to give La Salle a 41-34 spread.

The Archers then opened the third quarter with eight unanswered baskets for a 15-point cushion, 49-34.

La Salle's systematic offense confounded the Eagles, who faced an unsurmountable 19-point deficit, 75-56, midway in the fourth quarter.

Ateneo's top scorer, JC Intal (11.9 ppg), who played with a high fever, fouled out in the third period and wound up with only six points.

Ateneo, though, prevailed in junior play as the

ARCHERS/ A26

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Text ang iyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipilin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo kunggo-kunggo: Isang 21" color TV set!

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2. Sunday Morning	Keane	TIME SURRENDER	2. Detracted
3. Everybody's Changing	The Kines	TIME EVERGREENS	3. My Happy Ending
4. Breakin' The Habit	Linkin Park	TIME ZONE	4. Let's Get It Started
5. Things Will Go My Way	The Calling	TIME BREAKAWAY	5. Fantasy
6. Duality	Slipnot	TIME REALITY	6. Take My Breath Away
7. Somewhere Only We Know	Keane	TIME SWIMMER	7. I Want It Now
8. Ocean Avenue	Yellowcard	TIME OCEANMADE	8. I'll Never Get Over You (Getting Over Me)
9. Yellow	Coldplay	TIME YELLOW	9. Everything
			10. Can't Lose You

OPM Hits

1. Bart Di Ma Pagibigan	King	TIME DAYDREAM
2. Give It All	Rachelle Ann Go	TIME GIVEALL
3. Kikay	Viva Hotshots	TIME KIKAY
4. Nakukuy Ube	Sexbomb	TIME HALUKAY
5. Hands To Heaven	Christon Boutista	TIME HANDS2HEAVEN
6. Living Without You	Luke Mejor	TIME LIVINGSOME
7. Let Me Be The One	Jimmy Bondoc	TIME LETMEBEZ
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5. Officially Missing You	Jamie	TIME OFFICIALLY
6. Until I Get Over You	Christina Milian	TIME GETOVER
7. Sleeping Satellite	Toni Braxton	TIME SLEEPSAS
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Bibat paces Singapore Am with 66

By Musong R. Castillo

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MICHAEL Bibat shot a six-under-par 66 and Boyet Saragoza signed for a level 72 yesterday, making it a Philippine 1-2 after the first round of the Singapore Amateur golf championship at the Serapong Golf Club.

The 20-year-old Bibat and the pint-sized Saragoza, the two best performers for the RP team in last month's Putra Cup, paced two Malaysians in the tournament that has drawn some of the finest amateurs in Southeast Asia.

Bibat, who finished sixth in the Putra Cup individual race, paces third-ranking Sivali Pramanasudh by seven and Mohd Sukree by eight.

Their combined scores also put the Philippines on top of the standings, 9 shots ahead of Malaysia, in the three-day team competition.

The scores of Bibat and Saragoza in Singapore will be carried over to the NGAP evaluation series for the Philippines team to the World Amateur.

Also yesterday, Juvic Pagunsan blitzed his

home course at Canhubang with a five-under 67 to pull away from the rest of the field in the ongoing series.

Pagunsan gunned down five birdies at Cangolf's tough North course for a 352 aggregate going into the sixth round of the 144-hole

BIBAT: Hot start

series at the Aguinaldo layout today.

The 26-year-old Pagunsan is now eight-under after five rounds and looks to have a lock on one of two automatic RP team slots that will be given to the first two placers of the tournament.

Marvin Dumandan shot a 72 and stayed in second with 360, while Artemio Murakami followed a disastrous 79 at Alabang Friday with a 75.

Canhubang teammates Jim Bernis and Jay Bayron were the only others in the eight-man field to crack par, submitting identical 69s.

Meanwhile, Jayvee Agojo shot a 73 yesterday to pace the separate series for ladies.

Mark stuns Russian GM

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua intensified his bid to become the country's sixth grandmaster by beating GM Ramil Hasangatin of Russia in the fifth round Monday night of the 2nd Alushta tournament in Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine.

Paragua stayed unbeaten in the 16-man event with two wins and three draws for 3.5 points and shared the lead with Indian IM Das Neelotpal and Russian IMs Sergey Vokarev and Alexander Obukhov.

Obukhov took the scalp of Christian Kynel Pedersen of Denmark, Neelotpal halved the point with GM Andrey Nikitin of Russia, and Vokarev drew with six-time Turkmenistan champion IM Orazly Annagelyev.

Paragua will face Nikitin in the next round. Nikitin has drawn his first five matches.

Paragua needs to score at least 11 points in this Category IX event to earn his third and final GM norm. Marlon Bernardino



Realtors take first crack at SK Knights of Korea

THE PBA-Korean Basketball League dual meet begins today with the Sta. Lucia Realtors taking on the SK Telecom Knights at 5 p.m. at the Caruncho Gym in Pasig City.

The SK Knights and the SBS Stars arrived yesterday for the eight-game goodwill series against local pro teams.

GAME TODAY (Caruncho Gym, Pasig City)
Sta. Lucia Realtors vs. SK Telecom

Beefed up by members of South Korea's national men's and junior men's players, the Knights are expected to give the Realtors a tough time.

The encounter brings back mem-

ories of the Philippines' painful loss to South Korea in the semifinals of the 2002 Busan Asian Games. And for Kenneth Duremdes and Dennis Espino, members of that all-PBA team, a victory against the Knights would be sort of consolation.

The Coca-Cola Tigers take their turn against the SK Knights at 6 p.m.

tomorrow at the Arrellano Gym while the SBS Stars debut on Friday against the FedEx Express at 5 p.m. at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym.

"Considering the storied rivalry between the Philippines and South Korea in the sport, I'm sure this series will be very interesting," said PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

Manny Pacquiao clueless in L.A.

BARE EYE



Recab Trinidad

stead meet undisputed world super featherweight king Erik Morales for the third time.

Just like that, Murad was caught with his pants down, but he could not do anything.

Murad next scrambled and ticked off a list of lesser lights, including former world junior light champ Joel Casamayor.

You're free to suspect a conspiracy. But it has become clear that, after they had split their two previous encounters, a third Morales-Barrera clash would be hard to beat at the gates.

Then there's the pay-per-view market, lionized by fans in Morales-Barrera 1 and 2, where Pacquiao has yet to prove his fame.

Anyway, last word from under the table bared that the expected blockbuster between the two Mexican ring legends was not yet final.

Boxing expert Salven Lagumbay reported from Cebu that Barrera demanded parity and asked for a bigger purse.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, has started to get restless.

For sure, Arum would be lining up whoever wins between Morales and Barrera against Pacquiao.

But at least, Pacquiao, who's ready to kill himself to stay at peak form, must have an idea

of his next opponent.

This is Murad's job, to sign up a worthy foe. Unfortunately, the failure of the sleek and glib promoter to nail down a big outing for the Filipino world boxing celebrity could cost him his job. Murad's contract with Pacquiao expires in February.

Yes, Murad who again has been outwitted by Bob Arum, is twice as lost as Pacquiao.

Naturally, fight fans here at home have also started to feel insulted at how Arum & Co. have snubbed Pacquiao.

They cried foul and claimed US promoters were avoiding Pacquiao because of his proven hitting power.

That should be enough to lessen Pacquiao's current frustration.

But how do you beat this report that RP's Diocesano Gabi, the WBC International flyweight titlist, has been scrapped out of his scheduled world championship clash with Thailand's Pongsaklek Wonjirakan?

It's true. In the red-light-district sport called boxing, deals are rarely finalized over the table.

(BYE, SIR: Bert Corvera, a first-class craftsman and one of the true gentlemen of Philippine journalism, passed away Monday after a lingering illness. Corvera, 67, who had served in the old Philippine Herald, was a respected editor who helped mold many of today's senior mediapersons in the country. He also served as editor at the We Forum in the run-up to the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos. His remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Parish Church [Bahay Carmelo] on Road 8, Visayas Avenue, Project 6, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later. Please pray for this great friend.)

No-tomorrow matches in NC Final Four today

THE LETRAN Knights should have been mulling over their failed title defense by now. But Jonathan Aldave would have none of that.

Thanks to a three-pointer by the 6-2 swingman with just 3.2 seconds left, the Knights survived the vastly-improved Philippine Christian U Dolphins and forged a sudden death match today in the NCAA senior basketball semifinals at the Rizal Coliseum.

And the Knights will take that shot at a finals slot with gunner Ronny Enzile back in the lineup after serving a one-game suspension.

The San Beda Lions, on the other hand, were one of the teams least expected to enter the Final Four. Not only did they qualify for the semifinals, but—following a 57-48 conquest of top-seed University of Perpetual Help—are within a win of making the championship.

And the beauty of it all is no team holds an advantage in the sudden death matches today. When San Beda takes on Perpetual at 2 p.m. and Letran battles PCU at 4, it's a free-for-all with no room for roster strengths and momentum edges.

"There's no advantage in a do-or-die game. We know they (Atas) will be back, so we'll try to adjust," said San Beda coach Nash Racela.

"There's no momentum involved here. We just have to sustain whatever we have because PCU is strong and they're the tallest team," explained Letran coach Louie Alas.

Jasmine W. Payo

Archers...

From page A25

Eaglets earned the twice-to-bear advantage by edging the Junior Fighting Maroons, 75-72, in their knockout match for the No. 2 spot.

The scores:
FIRST GAME (Jr.)
ATENEO 78—Dizon 14, Reyes 11, Nadel 8, Tuason 8, Tingson 6, Perez 6, Austria 4, Medina 4, Gamboa 4, Fernandez 3, Chiu 3, Santos 2, Abellada 2, Monlapaz 0.

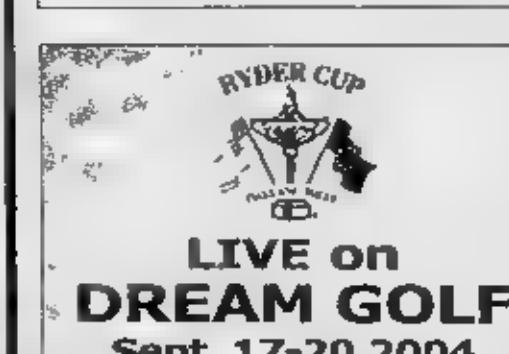
UPIS 72—Oliveros 17, Villanueva 16, De Peralta 15, Olano 10, Mariano 10, Bustos 2, Marlton 1, Catanaon 0, Aranas 0.

Dusters 22-13, 43-33, 61-50, 76-72.
SECOND GAME (Sr.)

LA SALLE 62—Cardosa 20, Yeo 16, Casio 10, Araña 8, Berliz 7, Gaco 6, Cabatu 6, Maelholier 5, Villanueva 4, Tang 0, Govino 0.

ATENEO 69—Tenorio 22, Bugla 14, Kramer 8, Del Rosario 8, Mimbres 6, Intel 6, Tiu 6, Atao 2, Baracoso 0, Oulmison 0, Escalona 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 41-34, 62-49, 82-89



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FUSO FIGHTER CLOSED VAN

2 US cagers beef up Spring-Laguna for Brunei tilt

SPRING Cooking Oil-Laguna will be reinforced by two talented Americans when it competes in the Sultan Cup invitational basketball tournament in Brunei from Sept. 20 to Oct. 1.

The two are 6-foot-9 slotman Raheem Nelson and 6-foot-6 guard Keith Friel.

"We expect to get a lot of help from these veteran players," said playing coach Mike Buendia.

The other members of the team co-owned by national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro are Nani Epondulan, Robin Mendoza, Mar Reyes, Marlon Kalaw, Rodel Manuel, Mike Garcia, Chris Corbin, Danny Capobres and Christian Nicdao.

Tito Palma, NBC (National Basketball Conference) secretary general, is the delegation head. Dennis Lazaro is the team manager and former PBA star Vic Sanchez is the assistant coach.

Two other Philippine teams—Red Bull Barako and Purefoods TJ Hotdogs—will see action in

the tournament together with the Shanghai Sharks, Taiwan's Chuon Tzu Yu Lon and South Korea's TG Sambo Xers.

The Cooking Oil Masters meet the Taiwanese on Sept. 21 and the Koreans on Sept. 22 in the preliminary round of the event which offers an estimated P1 million for the champion.

"We are honored to be invited to this prestigious event," said Padilla and Governor Lazaro, whose team is currently on top of the North division in the ongoing NBC tournament.

Nelson played for three US colleges—Southern Idaho, LA Valley and Biola University before turning pro. He led his team, Hamak, to the Iceland (Intersport) League playoffs where he averaged 18 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks per game.

Friel was named New Hampshire player of the year in his senior year and was a three-time First Team All State Selection member.

Buendia, Corbin, Epondulan and Manuel played for Goh Brothers, which won the title last year when the event was limited to Brunei clubs spiced up by Filipino players.

Echavez powers Ozamiz five

OZAMIZ CITY—Former pro Egay Echavez waxed hot with a game-high 28 points as the Ozamiz Cotta quashed any hope of the Cagayan de Oro Stars to gain the homecourt advantage in the playoffs with an 88-83 victory Monday in the NBC national championship at the Gov. Angel Medina gym here.

The 5-foot-8 ex-Purefoods point guard sank five triples and had four rebounds, four assists and two steals to help Ozamiz clinch the No. 2 slot in the South division with a 9-5 card.

The Warriors lost for the eighth time in 10 games and dropped to fourth place in the same division of the tournament.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 88—Echavez 28, Basco 17, Guerrero 10, Marquez 9, Alminario 6, Basilius 5, Ferraren 4, Cabigts 2, Lubatog 2, Cabra 2, Araman 2, Sampilo 1, Guibay 0.

CDO 83—Alfie 22, Capati 15, Navales 15, Tolentino 10, Alcantara 9, Sese 4, Celdora 4, Numeran 4, Hoyos 0, Lanlong 0, Jalager 0, Jimenez 0, Tagardia 0, Pong 0.

Quarters: 23-14, 45-39, 65-57, 80-83.

Mariano blasts Paragua seeding

SEEDING Filipino chess players to major tournaments such as the World Chess Olympiad would be detrimental to the development of the sport in the country and diminishes the hopes of other players to compete for the Philippines overseas.

This was the response of Nelson Mariano, the country's latest Grandmaster, yesterday to plans by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines to seed International Master Mark Paragua to the 36th Chess Olympiad.

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to engage in financing business in accordance with Sections 2, 4, and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Provision of R.A. No. 8555 (The Financing Company Act of 1998). Its principal office shall be located in Consolacion, Cebu.

The applicant's capital structure is as follows:

Authorized Capital Stock P 40,000,000.00
Subscribed Capital Stock 10,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital Stock 2,500,000.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

Peter A. Yap	Chairman/President
Yok A. Yap Jr.	Director/Vice-President
Jo Y. Yap	Director/Treasurer
Marcelo C. Arellano	Director
Jocelyn L. Margalef	Director
Josette Anne B. Velasco	Director

The Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicuous place in the City/Province where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of this Notice if the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. No. 8555 (The Implementation Rules and Regulation and other pertinent laws have been complied with and no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED

August 24, 2004

(Sgt.) JUSTINA P. GALLANGAN
Director

(PDI—Sept. 5 & 15, 2004)

IBB Marketing Assistant, Philippines

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), a part of the United States Government, is looking for Marketing Assistant in Manila to perform a wide variety of routine marketing related activities. The IBB includes the Voice of America radio and television service, one of the largest newsgathering organizations in the world and a leader in providing news and entertainment programs around the globe.

Applicant MUST have an in-depth knowledge of the media environment in the Philippines; 3 years experience working for a broadcast station; excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills; be able to travel occasionally; be fluent in spoken and written English; be able to work independently with little supervision.

Applicant must be mature, resourceful, have init. alive, etc.

Responsibilities: Assist Regional Marketing Director (RMD) in Bangkok; Maintain close contacts with regional/U.S. IBB offices; Update IBB affiliate database; Monitor and research media developments in the Philippines; monitor VOA broadcast on various stations in the Philippines; arrange for equipment installation; write weekly reports; negotiate rebroadcast agreements & perform other duties as assigned.

Fax your detailed resumé and letter to Joyce Ngoh at 66-2-205-5707, send by email to jngoh@ibb-bkk.org or mail it to IBB, The Millennia Bldg., Km 1501, 62 Langsuan Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand. Applications must be received by close of business on September 24, 2004.

DARLINGTON
SOCKS
Wala lang himulmol sa taglayang dihalan
A SOCKSCESSFUL JOURNEY
Thank you for giving Darlington another twin hard-knocking awards!

Through the years,
Darlington Socks has journeyed towards serving our Filipino consumers with socks of superb quality & ultimate comfort. You have named us the top excellence in socks manufacturing. Thank you for making us No.1

We continue to hope that our outstanding quality and topmost performance serve you best in your most demanding journeys in life!

We know your choice, you want the best - Nothing beats the best!

22nd Annual National Consumer Quality Top Quality Socks Brand People's Choice Awards

15th Annual National Consumers Award Outstanding Socks Manufacturer Consumers Union of The Philippines

THUNDERBIRD
Power Trio
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MULTI-GRAIN
CONDITIONER
ENERTONE
MULTI-GRAIN
CONCENTRATE

PROMO MECHANICS:

- Buy the following Thunderbird products: Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate or Conditioner, Thunderbird Enertone, and Thunderbird Maxx XP.
- Enclose in a legal size envelope the empty pack of Thunderbird Maxx XP, Thunderbird Enertone and any of the two Thunderbird Multi-Grain products (Concentrate or Conditioner); then write your name, address, phone number, location and the name of the store in a place of purchase.
- Send your entry to: Thunderbird Power Trio Promo, Thunderbird Marketing Inc., 10th Floor, One Rockwell Center, Rockwell Drive, Makati City, 1200.
- Each monthly drawing will get a grand prize of P10,000.00. The grand prize will be drawn quarterly.
- Entries will be accepted until October 31, 2004.

Thunderbird Power Trio Promo

Thunderbird is nationwide available in leading grocery stores.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY IN-PLANT TRAVEL SERVICES AT ADB HEADQUARTERS (Contract ADB/OAS-2004/056)

- The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites well-established IATA-accredited travel agencies operating in the Philippines to apply for pre-qualification for the bidding to select a contractor for the provision of In-Plant Travel Services at ADB Headquarters at ADB Building, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. For more information on ADB, you may access its website, www.adb.org.
- The contractor's services include provision of travel services with qualified and experienced personnel in the ADB premises to meet the business travel requirements of ADB which include documentation services for visas and passports for ADB staff (outbound) and guests (inbound). The scope of work is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
- Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from travel agencies, with legal authority to operate in the Philippines, including companies and joint venture of local and/or foreign agencies, and meeting the minimum criteria for prequalification by (i) one of the joint venture members, (ii) the lead firm of the joint venture, or (iii) all partners combined, as provided in the notice to be found in the Business Opportunities page of www.adb.org.
- Prequalification documents may be obtained from Contracts Administration, Room 4219, at the above address from 15-28 September 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Call D. Munoz at (632) 632-4231 or L. Cruz at (632) 632-4452 or fax (632) 636-2567 to receive the documents. Requests for electronic copies can also be made by email: dmunoz@adb.org.
- Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the attention of the Head, Contracts Administration at Room 4223, 6th Floor, Admin Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines. These should be received not later than 5:00 p.m. on 29 September 2004, and be clearly marked "Application for Pre-qualification to In-Plant Travel Services at ADB Headquarters".
- The Invitation to Bid will be issued to pre-qualified applicants who pass the minimum prequalification criteria and evaluated as pre-qualified.
- Only pre-qualified companies will be contacted and issued bidding documents. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bidding documents, without providing reasons therefor.
- This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the application for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

*From ADB member countries

(PDI—Sept. 14 & 15, 2004)

SPORTS

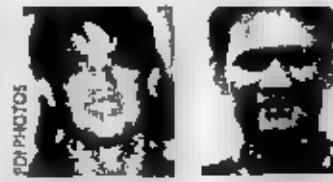
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

Champs' reunion in Roxas Camel moto

TOP RIDERS Jovie Saulog and Glen Aguilar resume their storied duel when the Camel Motocross Championship Series returns to the sporting scene in Roxas City this Sunday.

One of the most-awaited summer events in the 1980s and '90s, Camel Motocross will also visit Bacolod City on Oct. 10 and Iloilo City on Nov. 28 as it springs back to life after a five-year hiatus.

Aguilar, a seven-time national champion, six-time winner Saulog and rising star Kenneth San Andres head riders seeing action in the Pro Open



LEONGSON AGUILAR



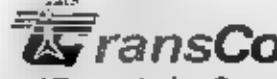
SAN ANDRES

category of the event being held in cooperation with National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association consultant Jojo Roldan of Roxas City.

"It would be the motocross event to watch this year," said FIM (Federation Internationale de Motocycliste) Asian Motocross and Enduro Commission president Macky Carapet.

Namasa vice president Arthur Valdez said the races will be a "reunion of champions."

Other noted riders like four-time titlist Joliet Jao and two-time winner Ernie Leongson are expected to see action in the Bacolod and Iloilo legs, according to Camel brand marketing manager Edward Cruz.



National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref No.: PB040521-EL0071 / PR No.: WVP-04-6786

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE FOR CORPORATE TRANSICO, wishes to invite interested parties who are qualified for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Item	Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
1-13	Supply and Delivery of Power, Control, Instrumentation and Grounding Cables	WVP-04-6786	P 8,989,624.00

1. The Bidding Documents will be available for issuance starting September 13, 2004 to October 6, 2004 at The BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per set.

2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before 10:00 A.M. of October 7, 2004 at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

3. Pre-bid conference will be held on September 24, 2004 at 10:00 A.M., at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.

5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formalities therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO G. LABAYAN

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 15 & 22, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION PAKAY DIESEL POWER PLANT Dingle, Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NPC, PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

Date/Time: 8:00 AM NPC, PDPP, Conference Room,
Place of Bidding: [REDACTED]
PR No./Line No.: [REDACTED]

Specification: [REDACTED]

Approved Budget: P 8,989,624.00

Pre-Bid Conference: October 21, 2004, 8:00 AM NPC, PDPP, Conference Room, [REDACTED]

Submission of First & Second Envelope: Opening/Evaluation of First Envelope: [REDACTED]

(Technical Documents): Opening of Second Envelope: October 21, 2004, 9:00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, [REDACTED]

A Two Envelope Mode of Procurement shall be observed.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Mr. Rolando T. Balta, BAC Chairman/Manager Admin/Finance PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo with telephone number 351-0450 upon presentation of this publication and payment of non-refundable fee of Pph 1,000.00 starting September 15, 2004 to October 5, 2004 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NN and from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Bid proposals and other tender documents shall be opened in the presence of the prospective bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper signature/representation in accordance with R.A. 9184.

A bidder's bond equivalent to 1% is required in the form of Cash, Managerial Cashier's Check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit, 1.5% Bank Guarantee, 2.5% Surety GSIS surety bond.

A Performance bond equivalent to 30% of the total contract amount, panel and catalog on demand issued by the GSIS.

Bidders are given the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) NELSON J. HOMERA

Panel Manager, PDPP

(PDI - Sept. 15 & 22, 2004)



Republic of the Philippines
Mindanao Polytechnic State College
C.M. Recto Avenue, Lupon, 9001 Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (0832) 72-60-65 / (083) 856-1738 Telex: (083) 856-4796

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Mindanao Polytechnic State College through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all interested suppliers to apply for Eligibility and

Name of Project : Lease-To-Own Contract for the following:

1 Unit	Server
60 Units	Personal Computer
3 Units	Switch
1 Lot	Structured Cabling

Approved Budget : PhP 3,380,000.00

Funding Source Students Library Computerization Collection

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES :

- 1 Pre-Bid Conference - September 26, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. - Conference Room
- 2 Deadline for submission of Documents for Eligibility Check - October 13, 2004
- 3 Opening of Bids - October 13, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. - Conference Room

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of R.A. 9184 and its IRR-A otherwise known as the Government

Bidding documents can be secured from the Office of the BAC Secretariat with Tel. No. 856-1739 *138*, open payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND (PhP 1,000.00), starting September 29, 2004 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

MPSL reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any formalities or defects and to make an award to the proposal most advantageous to the MPSL. The MPSL neither assumes no obligation for whatsoever losses that the bidders may incur in the preparation of their bids nor guarantees that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) CESAR C. ESQUINAS

Chairman

(PDI - September 15, 2004)

Hawks, Scorpions a win away from title playoff

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Ryan Regalado wreaked havoc on the Eagles' defenses with 21 points, six assists and four rebounds.

CEU snipers June Macasaet and Frederick Salamat hit three consecutive triples in the final five minutes to punish the shaky St. Clare defense.

The scores:

FIRST GAME

CEU 77—Salama 14, Macasaet 13, Cebilo 13, Cordero 9, Tobis 6, Manajero 6, F. Romualdo 6, Cristobal 4, Gatdula 4, Dayag 2

ST. CLARE 79—Deveratulan 14, Manalang 14, Manas 11, Gerding 6, Yambar 4, Diswa 3, J. Diaz 3, Manalil 2, Banayay 2, Querlent 15-15, 35-40, 56-53, 77-70

SECOND GAME

UN 66—Regalado 21, Salem 18, Uao 11, Santiago 10, Gomez 9, Litonjua 6, Delostinos 5, Villanueva 2, Bernados 2, Facun 2.

PLP 72—David 19, Ngui 14, Asay 11, Somera 9, Gumapas 9, Go-bon 6, Navo 3, Galimba 2, Galindor 0, Gavar 0.

Quarters: 21-16, 43-36, 70-53, 86-72.

First Gent inducts Patafa officers

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo swears in the new national executive board of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association today at the Century Park Sheraton.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio F. Fernandez Jr. and Go Teng Kok lead the list of inductees as chair and president, respectively.

The 2004 Patafa board is laden with people known for their competence and qualifications, "Go, who is serving his 13th

year as athletics president, said.

PSC chair Eric Buhau, POC president Celso Dayrit and presidents of national sports associations are expected to grace the affair.

The other members of the Patafa board are former PSC commissioners Dr. Anthony Nicancor, ex-Mayor Ray Roquero and Dr. Eli Nicolas Bontigao, who will serve as regional and sectoral directors, and ex-PSC executive director Lucrecio Calo



Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG LUPON SA MGA YAMANG TUBIG
(National Water Resources Board)

8th Floor, Hu Building, Espinido de los Santos Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 920-27-24, 928-23-65, 920-27-93
Fax: 920-26-41
Telex: 920-25-41/920-28-34/920-47-02
e-mail address: nwb@nwb.gov.ph

SAN MIGUEL PROPERTIES, INC.

Petitioner

Case No. 04-057

NOTICE OF HEARING

Petitioner requests for the approval of the Deed of Donation of the water supply service owned and operated by San Miguel Properties, Inc., within Legacy Subdivision, B.F. Homes, Las Pinas City in favor of The Legacy Homeowners Association, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that this application will be heard by the board on October 6, 2004, at 9:30 in the morning at the NWRB-WUD, Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Bldg., EDSA, Quezon City at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, Petitioner shall publish this notice once in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of (i) the application and its attachments and (ii) this notice to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the petitioner.

Failure on the part of any affected to file his opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of his right to be heard, and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the petition based on the evidences submitted.

Failure by the Petitioner to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant petition shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Chairman of the National Water Resources Board this 16th day of August 2004.

By Authority of the Board

(Sgd.) RAMON B. ALJPKALA
Executive Director

(PDI - Sept. 15, 2004)

Southern Luzon Technological College Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with Edigitalweb, a US-based company is in need of the following:

1. Web Programmer

- Direct professional experience using PHP, PERL, MYSQL, APACHE, and LINUX/UNIX
- Experience in developing E-commerce projects
- Result-oriented, team player

2. Content Writer

- Bachelor's Degree in Advertising, English, Journalism, Mass Communication from a reputable school.
- 2+ years experience in writing, editing, and research
- Knowledge in automotive industry preferred
- Must be creative, open-minded and innovative

3. Web Designer

- Proficient in Photoshop / Illustrator / Quark / HTML / Dreamweaver
- Minimum of 2 years work experience in web design
- Effective working in team environment

4. Web Marketing Analyst

- Bachelor's Degree in Business, English, Journalism, Advertising, or Communications from a reputable university
- 2+ years experience in online marketing, Search engine marketing, optimization and paid advertising strongly preferred
- Search engine optimization, pay-per-click advertising, and affiliate marketing experience highly desirable
- Excellent verbal communication skills and an ability to work individually on a project or in a team environment

5. Linux Server Administrator

- Expert in Redhat Linux/Fedora and Apache
- Professional experience in troubleshooting, providing information on logs and system behavior, configuring plug-ins, modules and documentation
- Proficient in database management systems including MYSQL

Send all resumes to racy@edigitalweb.com

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

September 8, 2004 Submission of Letter of Intent, Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements including issuance of bid documents

September 23, 2004 (10:00 AM) Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Floor, MFA

October 5, 2004 (10:00 AM) Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, MFA

[9:00-9:4

Federer's next goal: Slam record

Swiss a threat to Sampras' mark

NEW YORK—Roger Federer, who has just won his first US Open, is in many people's minds a threat to Pete Sampras' record of 14 Grand Slam titles.

Sampras won his last Grand Slam title two years ago at the US Open and then decided to retire.

Federer outclassed Australian Lleyton Hewitt in straight sets in Sunday's championship match to capture his fourth major in his last six Grand Slams.

Federer put on such a brilliant display of power and precision tennis that when asked who could have beaten the Swiss maestro on this day, Hewitt could only think of one name.

"I don't think anyone in the actual tournament," Hewitt said. "Maybe Pete Sampras."

If he is to catch Sampras, Federer will have to pick up the pace. Sampras won his fourth Grand Slam title at 22 and Federer just turned 23.

Federer, whose mother is South African and father is Swiss, started play-



FEDERER: More trophies to earn.

ing tennis at age 8 and grew up idolizing Sampras.

He says he doesn't like to celebrate too much after a win and gets pleasure from the simple things in life like sitting on a beach and playing ping pong. But his goals are high.

One goal he is not ready to contemplate quite yet is the one everyone would love to see—four Grand Slams in a single season. The last person to do it was Rod Laver in 1969.

His four Slam victories so close together is the best performance since Sampras won four of five Grand Slams tournaments between 1993-94.

A definite short-term goal would be to win the 2005 French Open which would complete a career Grand Slam. He has won two Wimbledons (2003, 2004) and an Australian Open (2004).

Federer became the first player to win three Grand Slams in one year since Mats Wilander in 1988 and the first to win his first four Grand Slam finals.

"I think he's got every chance to go down as one of the best ever," England's Tim Henman said, adding that to beat Federer you would need some kind of supercharged being.

"If you take (Andy) Roddick's serve and (Andre) Agassi's returns and my volleys and Hewitt's speed and tenacity; then you've probably got a good chance against Federer. That's a lot of people involved in one player."

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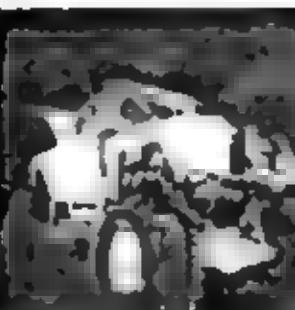
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FREESPORT



TODAY'S

SPORTS EQUIPMENT



DeloSPORT TRUCK

EXCELSIOR CAR BIKE SHOW

SEPT 29 - OCT 3, 2004

Megatrade Hall, Megamall 5th Level, Bdg. B

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

September 29	Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	10:30AM
September 29 - Oct. 2	Judging Dates	10:00AM - 8:30PM
October 3	Awarding Ceremonies	2:00PM

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

September 29 (Wednesday)	4x4 Fundamentals by: Land Rover Club of the Phils	4:00PM	5:30PM
	Experienced Rider Seminar by: Motorcycles Riders Course	5:30PM	7:00PM

September 30 (Thursday)	Car Audio 101 - Basic Knowledge Before Buying by: Vicente Pene (A-Audio)	8:30PM	4:00PM
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October 2 (Saturday)	How to Start Drag Racing by: Phil Drag Racing Family Sport
	Basics of Car Bodykits & Design by: Options Unlimited
	Basics in Circuit Racing by: Sports Values Inc.
	Basic Rider Seminar Cars & Bikes: A Shared Road Riding Straight: Alcohol, Drug & Bike by: Motorcycle Riders Course
	Basics on 4x4 Racing by: Manila Off-Roaders Inc.
	Custom Car Technology in Japan by: Minoru Goto
	Nikon Automobile College [Japan]
	Basics on 4x4 Racing by: Manila Off-Roaders Inc.
	Blown Racing Techniques by: Race Motorsports Club

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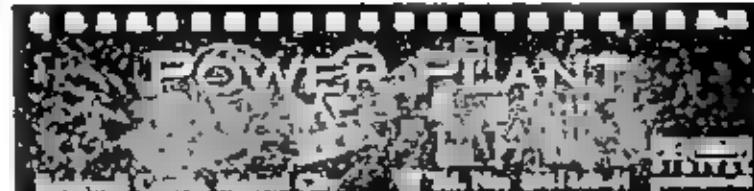
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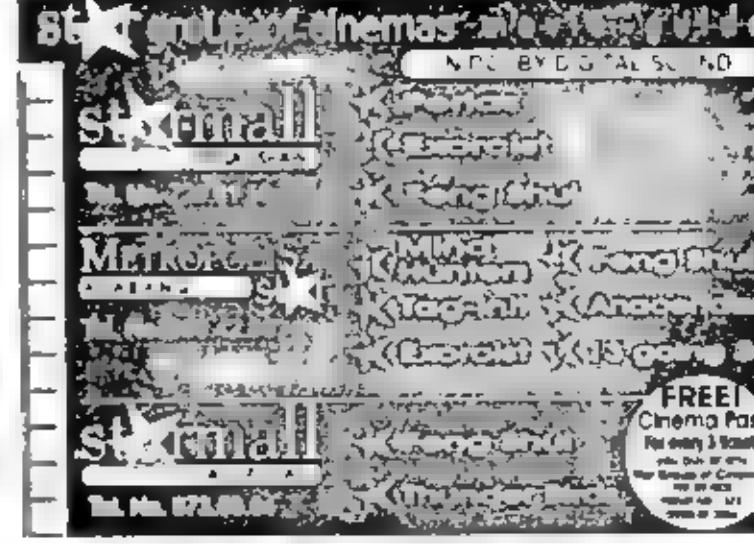
www.ctc.ph 1444 8888 9999 9999 9999

1	13 GOING ON 30 11:30, 1:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 11:30 PG-13
2	THE EXORCIST 11:45, 2:20, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20 R-13
3	THE TERMINAL 11:30, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20 R
4	FENG SHUI 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20 PG-13



DODGEBALL PG-13 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	13 GOING ON 30 PG-13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:20	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING R-13 12:00, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
FENG SHUI PG-13 12:30, 2:45, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15	MINDHUNTERS R-13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	TERMINAL R 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30

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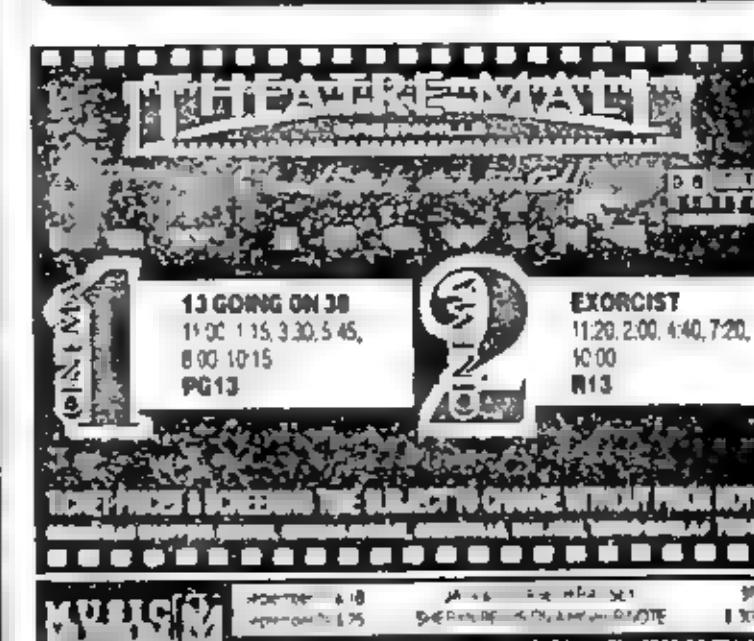
SHANG CINEPLEX

1 13 GOING ON 30
2 FENG SHUI

3 THE TERMINAL
4 EXORCIST :
The Beginning

Premiere Theatre

MINDHUNTERS



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MON-FRI 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM
SAT-SUN 12:15 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM

ACT 1 13:00 15:00 17:00 19:00 21:00
ACT 2 14:00 16:00 18:00 20:00 22:00
ACT 3 15:00 17:00 19:00 21:00 23:00
ACT 4 16:00 18:00 20:00 22:00 24:00
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CINEMA 7 19:00 21:00 23:00 25:00 27:00
CINEMA 8 20:00 22:00 24:00 26:00 28:00
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CINEMA 11 23:00 25:00 27:00 29:00 31:00
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CINEMA 14 26:00 28:00 30:00 32:00 34:00
CINEMA 15 27:00 29:00 31:00 33:00 35:00

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CINEMA 7 19:00 21:00 23:00 25:00 27:00
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WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

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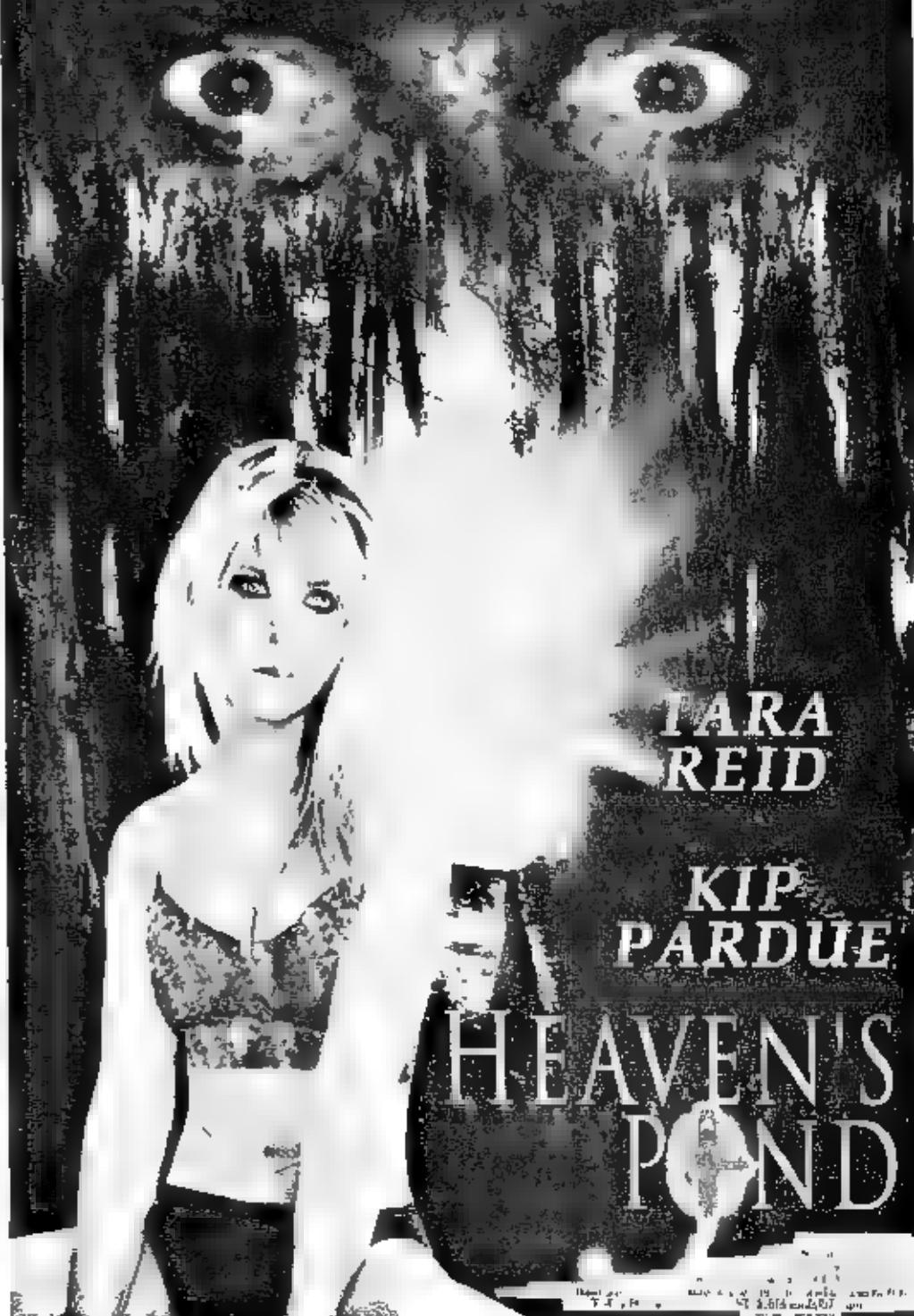
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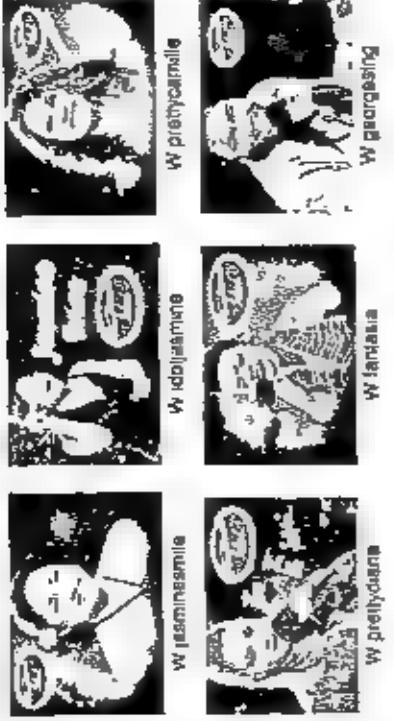
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I Can Love You Like That	Afida Blue
Lean On Me	Club Nouveau
Rhythm Is Gonna Get You	Gloria Estefan
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Saving All My Love For You	Whitney Houston
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ENTERTAINMENT

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SM 'to modify' movie ban, says Bong

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE SM chain will now "modify its decision" and allow the screening of R-18 films but only if they are rated A or B by the Film Ratings Board, according to Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

"R-18 films need not be bold," Revilla, chair of the Senate committee on public information and mass media, said in a press statement. "They can be action, horror, artistically sexy. It is just a matter of improving on the plot and visual contents."

SM theaters earlier announced they would no longer show movies classified as R-18. Actors and actresses who appear in sexy movies and their producers protested the SM decision.

Revilla, who also protested the SM ban, last week initiated a discussion with SM vice president for operations Ric Camaligan, movie producers, directors and other leaders in the movie industry. Revilla suggested that R-18 films have to be rated A or B by the Film Ratings Board before they can be screened in theaters including those of the SM chain. Rated A and B films are considered high quality films in terms of plot and production, Revilla added.

But actress and Movie Workers' Welfare Foundation chair Boots Anson-Roa said the SM ban on R-18 films is a "business decision" that "everyone should respect."

"While it's true that there are R-18 films that are very good, this should pose as a challenge to writers, producers and the other people in the creative staff to be more deliberate in creating concepts for films," Anson-Roa told Inquirer Entertainment last Monday. "They should be more careful with their pre-production work."

"They have the right to impose the ban because it concerns their business. I found out from Ric (Camaligan) that the theaters are actually losing money because of fly-by-night producers whose films border on the pornographic."

Anson-Roa is also a member of the board of governors of the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) and head of the cinema committee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

"Besides, (SM owner) Henry Sy and his family are charismatic leaders," Anson-Roa added. "They even offer their trade halls for the use of Catholic charismatic groups."

She said Camaligan told her the R-18 ban is also applicable to foreign movies. "Meaning,

Anson-Roa:
SM has the
right to
impose the
ban because
it concerns
their
business

there's no discrimination," the actress added. "This applies to all."

She said she agrees with actress-filmmaker Laurice Guillen when the latter said the SM ban would lead not to the death of the local movie industry but to the death of pornography in the country.

"It's sad that everybody outside SM rode on the issue," Anson-Roa said. "While some people think the ban could kill the movie industry, others believe that it would allow them to use films to promote positive values."

Revilla said he is confident that the positive result of last week's discussion would "cascade down to the entire industry for its immediate rehabilitation and improvement."

He said that while movie producers present

during the discussion admitted that "there are really R-18 films that border on pornography," they maintained that these were merely created by "fly-by-night producers."

The producers said SM should specify what kind of films it would not show on its screens because "it is unjust for producers who make quality movies to be included in the sweeping ban."

Present in the meeting were producers Lily Monteverde of Regal Films, Vic del Rosario of Viva Films, Wilson Tieng and Tess Fuentes, Movie and Television Review and Classification Board Chair Marissa Laguardia, MTRCB board member Joey Romero, Film Development Council Chair Laurice Guillen and Esperidion Laza of the Optical Media Board.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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PhilHealth also covers Show biz

ACTORS, actresses, directors and scriptwriters are now covered by the government's National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), which is administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

This was disclosed by Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, PhilHealth president and chief executive officer, who said the actors, actresses, directors, scriptwriters and other workers in the entertainment industry are covered as individually paying and self-employed members of PhilHealth.

Duque said PhilHealth now covers a record of 64 million Filipinos all over the country, 30 million of whom belong to the poor sector.

PhilHealth released to members a record P10.9 billion in benefit claims in 2003 alone, compared to a low of P7 billion in 2001 when he took over as PhilHealth chief.

"Entertainment industry people who do not fall within the definition of the term 'employee' under the new rules and regulations of the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 (RA No. 7875) as amended can apply as individually paying and self-employed members of PhilHealth so they will be covered by the NHIP," said Duque.

Other self-employed individuals are also covered by PhilHealth, he said. They include professionals, partners and single proprietors of businesses, professional athletes, coaches, trainers and jockeys and other sports personalities, he said.

Even news correspondents and contributors who are not considered full-time employees of newspapers, radio or television stations, cable television stations, magazines, news agencies and other media establishments can also have coverage if they apply for membership, he said.

In keeping with the mandate of RA No. 7875 that the government's health insurance program shall be universal and shall cover all Filipinos, individual farmers and fisherfolk and their dependents may also join the PhilHealth so they can avail themselves of its nationwide medical network and hospital and medical professional services.

PhilHealth is also mandated to cover indigents whose membership dues or premiums are being sponsored by government agencies

They are classified as individually paying and self-employed members

like the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives and local government officials like governors and city and municipal mayors, said Duque.

Those who want to enroll as PhilHealth members to have NHIP coverage should file their individual applications with any PhilHealth offices all over the country.

Applicants should submit documents like their birth certificate, baptismal certificate, identification cards from the Social Security System or the Government Service Insurance System, passport or any other valid ID or document acceptable to PhilHealth.



DEE'S GUESTS:
(From front to back)
Mary Ann Colayco,
Lex Ledesma
and Francis Colayco

CIE lessons on 'Dee's Day'

WATCH Carlo B. Maglinao, senior consultant of Magnus Philippines Inc. and a Center for International Education Academy for Leadership (CIE) graduate in project management; Andrew Masigan owner of Dimsum and Dumplings; Francisco J. Colayco, CIE academy chair; Mary Ann B. Colayco, CIE treasurer; and Lex Ledesma, CIE managing director, on "Dee's Day" on RPN 9 tomorrow, Sept. 16, 12:30 p.m., with replay at 1 a.m. and 6 a.m., Friday.

These seasoned entrepreneurs will talk about how to start a business, how to differentiate your business from the competition, and why entrepreneurship is the way for our country to improve the economy.

CIE is an international partner of the University of Cambridge, and provides world-class education as well as a Cambridge diploma. The CIE Academy is now interviewing applicants for the October opening of classes, on the 28th floor RCBC building, Ayala Avenue, Makati. Call CIE Academy, 887-2828 or 887-5989.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Maria Ressa, eyewitness to history

By Butch Jimenez
Contributor

WHEN the Philippine Ambassador's house in Jakarta was bombed, Maria Ressa was a witness to the tragedy.

When power was turned over to the new prime minister of Singapore after 14 years of the former ruler's reign, she was there, again an eyewitness.

When Gracia Burnham was released from Abu Sayyaf captivity in southern Philippines, she was there.

Whenever something significant or life-changing takes place in Southeast Asia, Maria Ressa is always at the forefront, updating the world. For about two decades now, this has been Ressa's life as CNN Southeast Asia bureau chief. Today, she is in Singapore. Tomorrow, she'll be in Manila, where she will later pack for a trip to Jakarta the following night. She never knows where she will be two weeks from now.

Still, despite her crazy schedule, the events she covers and the powerful individual she meets, she remains grounded, fully aware of her purpose and driven by her mission. Ressa, 2002 Top Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardee for journalism, exemplifies excellence in broadcast journalism.

Bigger things

"It was like a fluke," Ressa explains her career as a broadcasting journalist. On her fourth year in Molecular Biology at Princeton University, she realized she was meant for something bigger than molecules, biology and life itself. She explored the possibilities.

"On my senior year, I decided I really hated it (molecular biology)," she recalls. "I wanted to be a doctor but I switched and became an English theater and dance major."

After graduation, corporate America wasn't so attractive to her. She chose to come home to the Philippines.

"I wasn't American, and I wasn't Filipino," says Ressa, who was born in the Philippines but raised in the United States. She applied for and got a Fulbright Scholarship, allowing her to stay in the country for a year. One year stretched to years of learning and fulfillment for her, and the local broadcasting industry was all the better for it.

She says 1986, the year she came back, "was a fantastic time to be here." She worked as a consultant for Channel 4 and realized how much the organization needed an overhaul. She eventually worked with all five local networks, until she and Cheche Lazaro, another broadcasting icon, came up with the TV show "The Probe Team."

"With 'Probe,' we realized we could build something really different," says Ressa, who wrote about this and about trusting her instincts, in a piece she contributed to the TOYM compilation titled "Sketches."

"Probe" was fantastic because it was doing analysis and having an immediate impact on society," she says.

Stimulated, challenged

After five years, she became CNN's Manila bureau chief. It prepared her for the broader responsibility of covering Southeast Asia. As bureau chief, she is in charge of editorial and decides the network's position on stories. She determines which news events are covered, how the stories are tackled, which people are interviewed, and how much resources are dedicated to a story.

Because of the wide scope of her duty, she is stimulated and challenged in every aspect—intellectually, physically, emotionally, spiritually. "The problem is how do you not get jaded?" she says. "How do you become real so every time you meet a new person you really listen to them and not merely tape recording in your head?

"I think constantly there are two sides to myself that are always at war. There is a very intellectual academic side that wants to understand, believes that research is key, and believes that you have to know the context. There's another side of me that understands that there are things where you can never intellectually distill your emotions or motivation."

She believes her ultimate goal is always to get the message across and to open people's eyes to the truth.

People who care

"How often do you get 10 people who seek perfection in what they do in one room," she says, referring to her winning the TOYM recognition two years ago. She admits she did not really realize the importance of the award until she got together with the other nine awardees. Faced with masters from the field of architecture, forensics, medicine, music and agriculture, she was awed.

UPDATE: Whenever something significant or life-changing happens in Southeast Asia, TOYM awardee Ressa is always at the forefront, getting the story so she can tell the world.

"Everybody was so driven, searching perfection in their field," she says. "It reminded me that there are a lot of people who care. That in each of our fields you just continue plodding away with what you think is right, to try to contribute. You have to have faith in what you can do."

Responsibility

Ressa, like most of the other TOYM recipients, believe that with the award comes great responsibility. "When you are 40, you have a tendency to say, 'I should just concentrate on my life, the world will take care of itself.' But that is not really true."

Ressa believes we need more heroes. She recognizes the TOYM awardees as heroes in their own right. "I realized that one person can make a difference. The cool thing about TOYM is it brings out people who care a lot about what they're doing and who want to

make a difference."

Aside from the TOYM trophy, a trail of other achievements and honors proves her unwavering commitment. One of these achievements is the book, "Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of Al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia," based on her own experience of 17 years of terrorism. She wrote the book after 9/11.

She has also received the National Headliner Award for Investigative Journalism, the SAIS-Novartus International Journalism Award, the Asian Television Awards and the Ferris Professorship of Journalism at Princeton University.

She is not, however, keeping track of her trophies. What she is in fact keeping track of right now is her crew's preparations and packing for the night flight to Jakarta. Another good story is waiting to be told, and she has to be there.

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A3 Red Door swings this month

THIS month, Red Door opens itself to nights of superb live music, entertainment, good food and drinks.

Red Door Resto, Grill and Cocktails starts the week with Happy Hour jamming on Monday. A mini-concert follows on Tuesday with Cruxada. Wednesday has the '60s and '70s music of Retrospect and Alana.

It's hip hop and R&B with Thor and Adjundie on Thursday. And Friday offers an acoustic blowout with Franco and 17.28.

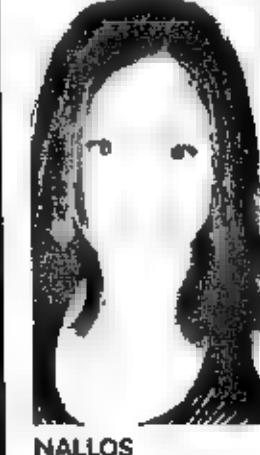
Xsentrik cranks it up even further with alternative and R&B songs, with Almond on Saturday nights.

Rannie Raymundo and Luke Mejares serenade the crowds on Sept. 18 and 24, respectively.

Also, try Red Door's signature dishes, pepperoni pizza, chicken buffalo wings, the sausage platter and all-time favorites such as sisig, sizzling lempa, and crispy pata.

Whether for food, drinks or music, this is definitely the exciting place in town. Red Door is located at 173 Pasig Blvd. (formerly Shaw Blvd. Extension), Pasig City.

For ticket rates and the nightly schedule, call 747-1191.



Reunion concert in Naga

MARRI Nalos performs in a fund-raising and reunion concert presented by the Metro Manila chapter of the Alumni Association of Ateneo de Naga University on Friday, Sept. 17, at the Ateneo de Naga Gym.

The show is titled "Ikaw Pa Rin Ang Mamahalin," which is also the title of Marri's single from her self-titled album from Universal Records.

Marri's mother is a Bicolana. The composer of "Ikaw Pa Rin Ang Mamahalin," Anna Dy, is from Naga City. Raffy Amaranto, Marri's musical consultant and vocal coach, is another Bicolano.

Marri's guests in the Naga show include pop icon Nonoy Zuniga who is also a Bicolano, actor-singer Juan Rodriguez, and her band Friends Inc.

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NOW SHOWING



CINEMA 1

THX

THE TERMINAL 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

2 THE TERMINAL 10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30	3 DODGEBALL 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	4 GODSEND 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5 ANACONDAS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 THE NOTEBOOK 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	7 JANDARA 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 10:45, 1:00, 2:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	9 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	10 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

MATINEE: Monday to Friday / 10 am-4pm except holidays

Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas

Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas



CINEMA 1

ERMITA

536-7899 to 12

1 ANACONDAS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40	2 GODSEND 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40	3 THE TERM NAL 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50	4 DODGEBALL 10:40, 12:50, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:00, 10:00	5 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2 11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:30	6 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:00	7 THE NOTEBOOK 10:30, 12:25, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00	8 TAG-INIT 10:05, 12:50, 2:35, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 9:30	9 GODSEND 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:00	10 ANACONDAS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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CINEMA 1

METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00	2 DODGEBALL 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30
3 THE TERMINAL 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:25, 10:30	4 GODSEND 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:00
6 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:00	7 THE NOTEBOOK 10:05, 12:50, 2:35, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 9:30



CINEMA 1

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW

935-3229/31

1 ANACONDAS 10:30, 12:35, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55	2 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
3 DODGEBALL 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30	4 JANDARA 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
5 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30	7 TAG-INIT 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00



CINEMA 1

MALABON

288-0985/2575

1 DODGEBALL 1	2 TAG-INIT 1	3 ANACONDAS 1
2 THE TERMINAL 2	3 DODGEBALL 2	4 THE TERMINAL 2
3 ANACONDAS 3	4 THE TERMINAL 3	5 HOUSE OF THE DEAD 3



CINEMA 1

CAINTA

240-4661

1 DODGEBALL 1	2 TAG-INIT 1	3 ANACONDAS 1
2 THE TERMINAL 2	3 DODGEBALL 2	4 THE TERMINAL 2
3 ANACONDAS 3	4 THE TERMINAL 3	5 HOUSE OF THE DEAD 3



CINEMA 1

STA. ROSA

(049) 837-0907

1 DODGEBALL 1	2 TAG-INIT 1	3 ANACONDAS 1
2 THE TERMINAL 2	3 DODGEBALL 2	4 THE TERMINAL 2
3 ANACONDAS 3	4 THE TERMINAL 3	5 SUPERSIZE ME 4



CINEMA 1

LIPA

757-3884 / 312-5970

1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1	2 DODGEBALL 1	3 THE TERMINAL 1	4 STARMILLS 1
2 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 2	3 A CINDERELLA STORY 2	4 THE TERMINAL 2	5 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 3	4 HOUSE OF THE DEAD 3	5 ANACONDAS 3	6 DEATH CURSE 2
4 HAMOG 4	5 ANACONDAS 4	6 CONNIE AND CARLA 5	7 THUNDERBIRDS 3



CINEMA 1

IMUS

471-8188 / 875-5832

1 ANACONDAS 1	2 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1	3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1	4 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1
2 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS 2	3 A CINDERELLA STORY 2	4 THE STEPPED WIVES 2	5 THE STEPPED WIVES 2
3 THE NOTEBOOK 3	4 THE PRINCE AND ME 3	5 A CINDERELLA STORY 3	6 THE VILLAGE 3
4 DODGEBALL 4	5 THUNDERBIRDS 4</		

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT

Mindless, vulgar and funny

From page A3-4
get their shot at re-
demption.

I am not the biggest fan of mindless humor but when I saw "Dodgeball" does it right. I went to its preview at Rockwell primed to laugh, and laugh I did. And the crowd I saw the movie with, a mostly older audience with just a smattering of teens, did seem to be having just as much fun as I was.

Cameos

No doubt the movie is vulgar and at times tries too hard for its laughs, but really, there is no place for good taste, discretion and timidity in this movie. Although "Dodgeball" does feature a clever, witty script, aptly displayed, for instance, in the loose comic banter between Stiller and Vaughn, the comedy isn't just the gags and punch lines. It's also about the actors who understand the concept of comic timing and know how to effectively realize the humor in certain situations.

Stiller is winningly cartoonish and Vaughn is in his element playing the straight guy. The two leads come together with the joy and assurance of actors who know they are in material that's working.

However, while both men are good, the movie is stolen from them by the supporting cast, including an unlikely bunch of cameos that I would not dare to mention here because it would be unfair. Suffice it to say that they make "Dodgeball" entertaining by simply being in it. (In the case of one TV actor, he draws upon his own repartee to fashion a memorable self-parody.) Tayor, or Mrs. Stiller, also proves herself as a comic actress able to hold her own in the company of her husband.

"Dodgeball" also scores points for its refreshing lack of gross-out toilet humor. Even if it's got plenty of pratfalls and slapstick moments, there are no fart jokes in the movie and not once does it have to rely on bodily fluids to generate laughter.

The movie may not win any screenwriting awards because of this, but such a feat in the genre of comedy could be considered revolutionary by today's standards. Certainly, in my book, that alone is worth the price of admission.

Reunion...

From page A3-2

The front act, Arla Floro, is a winner of a "Sing a la Marri" contest.

This will be Marri's first time to perform in her mother's native place.

"The event is a reunion of Bicolano artists and a venue for meeting classmates and old friends and for contributing to the projects of the Metro Manila chapter," says chapter president Danny Pelago.

Tickets will be available at Jollibee Naga and the Ateneo de Naga gym.

M M T A
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

THEATER	MOVIE	SHOWTIME	DESCRIPTION
CINEMA 2000	THE NOTEBOOK	10AM, 1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	PG 13/14
Filinvest	FESTIVAL CINEMA	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Muntinlupa) Tel 856.3571 or 72
EASTWOOD	CINEMAS	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) Tel 687.6963 or 72
CINEMA 2000	THE TERMINAL	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	Movie Theaters of the New Millennium
SUPER CINERAMA	THE NOTEBOOK	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Cainta) Tel 733.4238
Araneta Center	THE TERMINAL	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Quezon City) Tel 8242-6267/6268/6269
Manggahan Cinema	ANACONDAS	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Pasay) Tel 833.3290, 833.3274
Starmall	THE TERMINAL	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	Mandaluyong Tel 744.4996
METROPOLIS	ANACONDAS	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	RESERVE
Cine Nepo	THE TERMINAL	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	RESERVE
Centre Plaza Cinema	ANACONDAS	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	RESERVE
Starmall	DODGEBALL	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	RESERVE
Starmall	ANACONDAS	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	RESERVE
Starmall	BOLD AFFAIR	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	RESERVE
Mega Center Mall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Cebu) Tel 844.4323
Fiesta World Mall	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Luzon) Tel 943.981.0798
Berma Cinema	HOUSE OF THE DEAD	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Centre Plaza Cinema	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	CONNIE & CARLA	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
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Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
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Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
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Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
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Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
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Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
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Starmall	DEAD PEOPLE	1PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM, 6PM, 7PM, 8PM, 9PM	(Davao) Tel 047.237.2007
Starmall	THE CINDERELLA STORY	1PM,	

ENTERTAINMENT

Mindless, vulgar and funny

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

Contributor

IN AN era when a moviegoer is

lucky to find one or two humorous moments in a 90-minute so-called "comedy," one might consider "Dodgeball: A True Under-

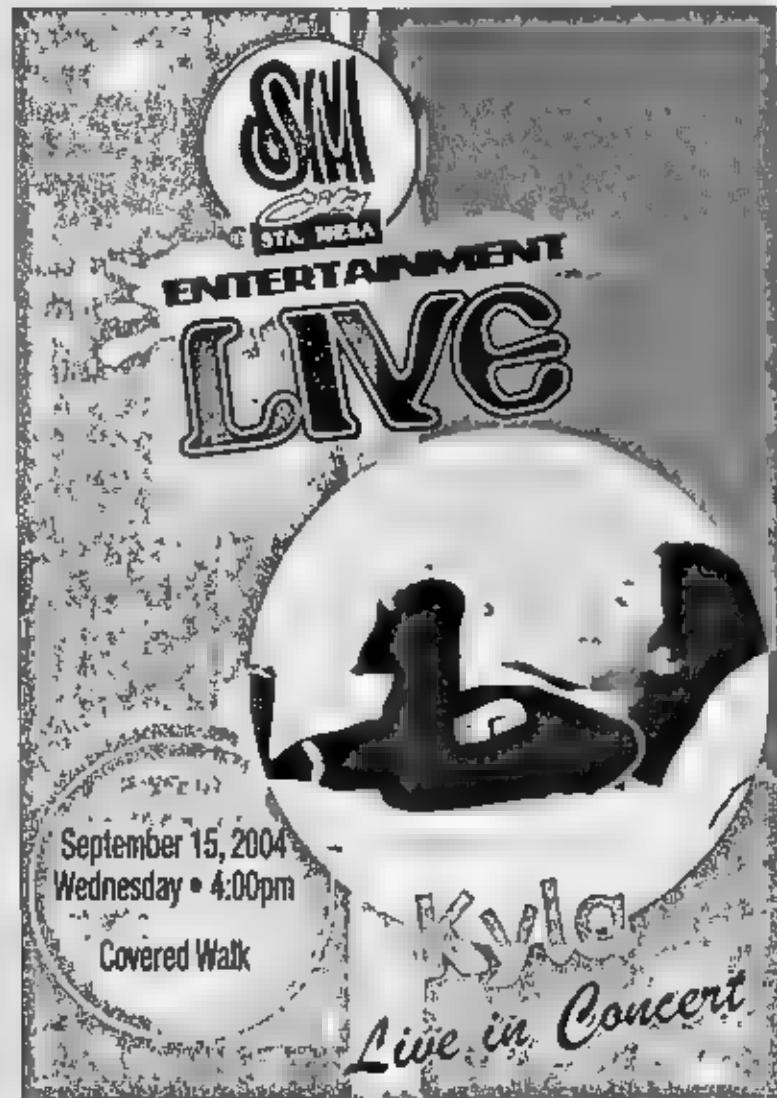
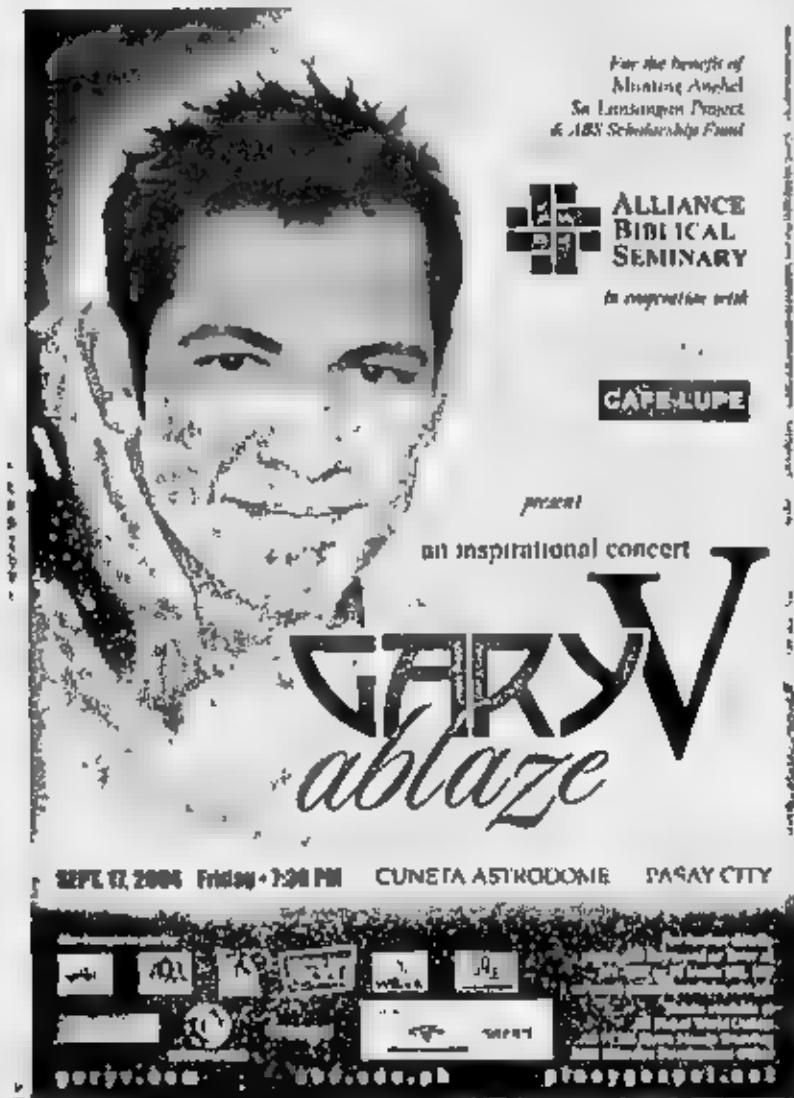
dog Story" a rare gift.

Laughter nowadays is a wonderful and elusive thing, and you have to be thankful for any movie that

could consistently provide it, regardless of whether that movie is dumb or shallow. To be fair, "Dodgeball" is not moronic to a fault, but it



SIDE-SPLITTING: Stiller (left) loses all his dignity as the villain vs Vaughn.



is truly side-splittingly funny.

That Ben Stiller stars in misfit clients constitutes a celebration of the loser ethos. They're the kind of people Globo Gym would not touch with a 10-foot pole, which is why they've found a home at Average Joe's and a friend in its owner, the likeable slacker

joned gym whose menagerie of

clients constitutes a celebration of the loser ethos. They're the kind of people Globo Gym would not touch with a 10-foot pole, which is why they've found a home at Average Joe's and a friend in its owner, the likeable slacker

Peter La Fleur (Vince Vaughn), a man who, in his own words, doesn't have any goals in life because he doesn't want to be disappointed if he fails to accomplish them.

Peter accepts his clients for who they are and he doesn't even nag them when they fail to pay their membership fees. But his kindhearted and un-businesslike ways have left Average Joe's in a financial fix. A lawyer named Kate (Christine Taylor, Ben Stiller's real-life wife) shows up one day and tells Peter he has to come up with \$50,000 to keep the bank from foreclosing

the mortgage on the gym. To make things worse, White has been salivating at the prospect of buying Average Joe's from the bank so he can tear it down and make way for a parking garage for his clientele.

In a blatant plot contrivance that justifies the title, Peter and his friends enter a dodgeball tournament in Las Vegas with a cash prize of (what do you know) \$50,000 for the eventual champion.

Underdog

A brief explanation of dodgeball, which I found after I Googled it, actually has several professionally run tournaments all over the globe (there's even an International Dodgeball Federation). I used to play a local version of the game here when I was a kid, in which two people from opposite sides would try to "out" the kids in the middle by hitting them with a ball. In the American version of the sport that's featured in the movie, two teams with six players each try to eliminate each other using several balls.

It is obvious from their first game—in which they are soundly beaten by a girl scout team but nevertheless manage to advance because of a technicality—that no one in Average Joe's can play the game well. But this, after all, is a triumph-of-the-underdog flick.

Peter sees a chance to improve the team by recruiting Kate, who just happens to be a former softball player with a cannon for an arm. And after the old dodgeball pro, Patches O'Houlihan (R.P. Torn), takes on the coaching chores for Average Joe's, you know Peter and his group of losers are destined to

*Abutin Mo ang
Magandang Kinabukasan
sa halagang ₱28 lang!*

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ABONADO: Sa ₱28 lamang bawal raw, may makakabili ka ng isang kinabukasan na nangangailangan mo.

IMUT: Sa sagipan halaga, proteksyon ka ng isang taon na minahal mo.

BISAYA: Sa ₱28 lamang bawal raw, may makakabili ka ng isang kinabukasan na nangangailangan mo.

IBAG: Sa sagipan halaga, proteksyon ka ng isang taon na minahal mo.

SWAG: Agad sa 1021 528-5200, lumilito sa pinakamalapit na Philam Plans Office o branch ng iyong lalaki na sales consultant.

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BIR exceeds August collection goal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue collected P43.128 billion in August, surpassing its collection target for the month and helping the national government stay on track to meeting its budget deficit target for this year.

The collection last month was slightly higher than the P43.114-billion target given to the BIR, which accounts for more than 80 percent of the national government's revenues.

The August collection brought the BIR's cumulative revenue contribution for the first eight months of the year to P311.21 billion, or missing by a slight margin its target of P43.77 billion. The latest cumulative eight-month collection figure, however, was higher than the P281.41 billion collected during the same period in 2003.

"Increasing collections from quarterly corporate income tax payments

helped offset the downturn in tax payments from government securities," the BIR said in a statement. The revenue agency earlier said tax collections from the trading of government securities have dwindled because of the Bureau of Treasury's previous moves to reject bids for its treasury bonds and notes due to the high prices that the financial market was asking.

The BIR also said that meeting the August collection target was attributed to its tax compliance verification drive, under which revenue personnel were sent to the field to check on the tax compliance of business establish-

ments. The BIR said the drive helped its large taxpayers unit to collect P927 million more than its target collection.

The BIR's collection performance in August was the second consecutive month that it exceeded its goal. In July, the BIR collected P38.89 billion, or higher than its target of P38.02 billion.

The collections in July and August ended the consecutive months of missed monthly collection targets, which were feared to force government to fail to meet its budget deficit target of P197.8 billion for this year.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the revenue agency was always confident of meeting its full-year collection target of P477 billion despite posting lower-than-programmed collections in the previous months before July.

She explained that it has been a trend for the BIR to post higher collections in the second half of the year.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the revenue agency was always confident of meeting its full-year collection target of P477 billion despite posting lower-than-programmed collections in the previous months before July.

He said finished product importers might have to implement an increase of between 60 and 70 centavos for every liter of diesel.

Gasoline prices, on the other hand, should remain steady, he said.

Flying V director Macky Lopez said

SMALL/B5

Small oil firms seen raising diesel price

By Abigail L. Ho

OWNERS of diesel-run vehicles may be in for another surprise as pump prices of diesel may again rise within the week by between 40 centavos and 70 centavos a liter.

Despite statements by the Department of Energy that another increase during the month was unlikely, local

oil firms may have to increase diesel pump prices due to some upward movement in prices of finished products over the past few days.

Fernando Martinez, chair of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association, said the price of diesel based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products has started

Inching up again, after softening over the past two weeks.

He said finished product importers might have to implement an increase of between 60 and 70 centavos for every liter of diesel.

Gasoline prices, on the other hand, should remain steady, he said.

Flying V director Macky Lopez said

SMALL/B5

Globe, Smart insist cell phone theft a police matter

By Clarissa S. Batino

IF YOU lose a cellular phone, don't go blaming the wireless giants.

Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc., two of the country's biggest and most profitable companies, said they too wanted to help put a stop to the rampant theft of mobile phones.

But officials from the two companies insisted that theft was a police matter.

"This is a purely law enforcement issue. Why must cellular phone companies be taken to task for something that is outside their ambit?" asked Rogelio Quevedo,

head of legal and carrier relations at Smart.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno said phone companies were already doing all they can to help reduce phone theft by immediately blocking handsets upon the order of the National Telecommunications

Commission.

"We just need the NTC order and in a few hours, we can block a stolen phone. We are cooperating with the authorities but we could not prevent these phones from being given new IMEI numbers if they are brought to places like Greenhills," said Nazareno. The IMEI, or International Mobile Equipment Identity, is a 15-digit code; each cell phone has a unique number.

Froilan Castelo, Globe's head of regulatory affairs, noted that watches were once the most coveted item among snatchers—and that when thieves stole watches or jewelry, nobody dragged the watch manufacturer or the jewelry-maker into the mess.

"This is a police matter. Telecom firms are not equipped to deal with this issue."

GLOBE/B5



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SMALL/B5

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2. The focus of the contest is candid wedding photos. Entries should capture sidelights and unguarded moments of a Filipino wedding, the laughter and tears that make the event special and unique.
3. Entries should cover an actual wedding.
4. Contestants can use either digital or conventional film cameras.
5. A participant can submit a maximum of five entries. Photos should be printed in 6x10 inches, without borders, unmounted. No digital enhancement or desktop printout will be allowed.
6. Winners will be required to present the original negatives or data file for verification of ownership.
7. An entry should have a title. The participant must put his/her complete name, address, contact information, and signature on the back of the photo.
8. The participant retains the copyright of the entry.
9. Each entry should be put in a brown envelope.
10. The contest is from June 30, 2004 to November 10, 2004.
11. Entries should be submitted to the Philippine Daily Inquirer (c/o Marketing department-Hazel Bonaga, Ching dela Cruz), Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.
12. Entry must be exclusive to the contest, unpublished and must not have been submitted to other contests.
13. Criteria: Relevance to the theme (30%), composition (30%), and creativity (40%).
14. Winners will be notified through phone and mail. Their names will also be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
15. Prizes can be claimed at the Philippine Daily Inquirer within (60) days from receipt of notification.
16. Winning entries will be displayed during the bridal fair, "Wedding March at NBC Tent", presented by PDI and cbv7 Media master, on January 22-23, 2005.
17. Winners must present 3 valid I.D.s.
18. The decision of the board of judges is final.
19. Employees of Canon Phils., PDI, cbv7 Media master, and their advertising agency, dealers and participating outlets, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity, are disqualified.
20. Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. and PDI reserve the right to publish or display the entries.

WEDDING MARCH AT NBC TENT

January 22-23, 2005

Candid Wedding Photo Contest is presented by Canon Philippines in cooperation with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and cbv7 Media master

Fiscal crisis fears jack up cost of foreign borrowings

By Michelle V. Remo

MARKET jitters following President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a fiscal crisis jacked up interest rates on foreign borrowings, thus worsening the government's already serious debt problem.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong told the Senate committee on finance yesterday that the government's foreign borrowing cost has reached 490 basis points or 4.9 percent over the international benchmark Libor rate, when it sold \$1 billion in sovereign bonds last week.

The borrowing cost before the

President's declaration was hovering between 400 and 450 bps or 4 to 4.5 percent over Libor.

"So in effect, our borrowing cost has increased by about \$100 million," committee chair Sen. Manuel Villar said.

In comparison, Malaysia's foreign borrowing has a spread of only 87 bps over Libor, while Thailand's is at 100 bps.

The higher the spread, the riskier the investment, from the point of view of the investors.

The government issued \$1 billion in bonds last week, of which \$300 million would mature in 2015, and

the rest in 2025.

The interest rate for the 2015 bonds was 8.875 percent, while that of the 2025 bonds was 10.625 percent.

The proceeds of the bond issue would be used to finance the operating expenses of state-owned National Power Corp.

The \$1 billion in additional foreign borrowings has increased the national government's debt stock, which has already reached P4.1 trillion as of February this year.

RP seeks animation contracts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL animation firms are going for a larger share of animation work sourced overseas by major international film and television companies.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), three major local animation studios would join 1,200 others in the International Market Conference for TV, Video, Cable and Satellite Entertainment Content (Mipcom) 2004 on Oct 4 to 8 in France.

Philippine participants include Philippine Animation Studio Inc (Pasi), Toon City Animation Inc and Top Draw Animation Inc.

These and other firms produce work for foreign shows, including Scooby Doo, Tom and Jerry, Addams Family, The Mask, The Jetsons, Dragon Ball Z and Captain Planet.

Local firms are working to get themselves known in the international market due to the huge potential of the animation industry.

According to the De La Salle University's Center for Business and Economic Research, animation work outsourced to the country accounted for 30 percent of jobs in the Asia-Pacific region and was expected to grow 70 percent.

Data from India's National Association of Software and Service Companies also showed that the global market for animation outsourcing was worth at least \$50 billion in 2004 and 2005.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said in a statement that the local firms' participation in Mipcom 2004 would allow the animators to explore other markets.

About half of animation jobs coming in are from the United States.

Other markets include The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Italy, China, Singapore, France and India.

Aside from actual drawing and illustration, local animation studios also specialize in pre-production planning, proper animation for TV shows and digital painting.

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Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines NATIONAL CONVENTION 2004

15-17 September 2004
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel



GREEN GROWING EDGE

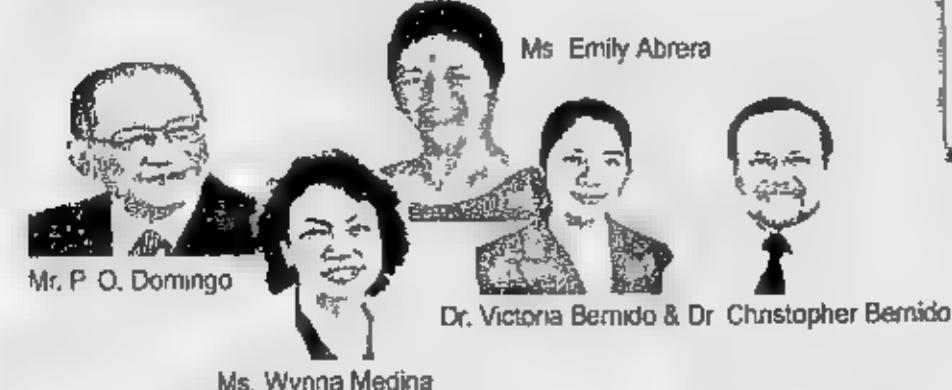
Fresh Starts, Creative Ventures
in Catholic Education Today

The member schools of the 1,200-strong Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines take time to come together in a National Convention that aims to promote unity and oneness, provide new, creative and doable solutions and strategies, and, foster hope in these challenging times.

In its Convention last year, CEAP explored ways to make ends meet – particularly the ends of excellence, economics and evangelization. This year, the CEAP schools take time to see where, in the educational system and in the schools' current operations and programs, have they dared to go beyond boundaries to become better schools and to achieve their mission of education.

The 2004 Convention will present strategies and experiences of schools which did not confine themselves to just making ends meet but pushed the limits in the same areas of institutional and academic excellence, financial stability and evangelical endeavors.

The delegates, guests and the organizers of this Convention shall look at and hope to be inspired by the fresh starts and creative ventures of individuals and schools that rose to the challenge to discover...the GREEN GROWING EDGE.



Mr. P. O. Domingo

Ms. Emily Abrera
Dr. Victoria Bernido & Dr. Christopher Bernido

Ms. Wynna Medina

"The hard thing when you get old is to keep your horizons open. The first part of your life, everything is in front of you, all your potential and promise. But over the years, you make decisions, you carve yourself into a given shape. Then the challenge is to discover the green growing edge."

- Howard Thurman
theologian and contemporary mystic

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONVENTION PROGRAMME

KEYNOTE: Ms. Emily A. Abrera
Chairperson
McCann-Erickson, Philippines

PLENARY SESSIONS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

During the three Concurrent Sessions, the assembly will be divided into four groups according to levels and function. Each group will have one to three paper presentations per session. The papers are from various Catholic/private schools from all over the country that responded to CEAP's Call for Papers and are willing to share their actual experiences in implementing creative/innovative school programs/projects. A total of 24 papers will be presented.

Academic Excellence: Strategies for Enhanced Learning

Dr. M. Victoria Carpio-Bernido and Dr. Christopher Bernido Principal & President respectively, Central Visayan Institute Foundation

Economics in Private Education: Strategies for Sustainability

Mr. P. O. Domingo Chairman of the Board, University of the East

Evangelization: New Wine in New Wineskin

Ms. Wynna Marie A. Medina President, St. Paul University Manila

Concurrent Sessions 1: Institutional and Academic Excellence

Paper Presentations & Workshops

Concurrent Sessions 2: Economics and Community Extension

Paper Presentations & Workshops

Concurrent Sessions 3: Evangelization

Paper Presentations & Workshops

PLENARY SESSION

The National Financial Situation Today: Implications to Philippine Catholic Education

Dr. Ernesto M. Pernia

School of Economics, University of the Philippines

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Blackballing parallel Bimmers

THOSE who brought in or acquired BMWs from parallel importers pay a surcharge whenever they bring in their cars and SUVs to any authorized BMW dealer for servicing.

But, under a plan being considered by the new BMW Philippines president, any Bimmer acquired outside the official dealership would no longer be serviced at all—nada, zip, nothing—starting January.

According to the grapevine, BMW has been encouraged by the success of accredited Porsche dealer Robert Coyluto Jr., who also happens to be a BMW dealer through PGA Cars, in protecting his already limited Porsche market from the aggressive inroads of Subic and Clark importers.

And because these high-end vehicles have advanced microchip-embedded technologies in their engines, only an authorized dealer would have the latest computerized program that could service and diagnose whatever ails these expensive toys.

BMW is aggressively trying to move its remaining inventory of the ■ series through a 25 percent down, four-year no-interest installment plan, amid an alleged onslaught of S, 7 and X5 series from undercutting parallel importers.

In addition to BMW, Jaguar and Land Rover dealer Wellington Soong has also imposed the surcharge policy to protect his fledgling distributorship from tax-dodging importers.

COCKTAILS

Victor C. Agustin



It is not immediately clear if CATS Motors, the de facto Mercedes-Benz distributor, would follow suit.

Gatchalian counsel slapped down

AIR Philippines has lost its Supreme Court appeal over a \$65,000 case, all because of the negligence and dilly-dallying tactics of its former chief in-house counsel, Manolo Manalo.

The case stemmed from the \$65,000-plus bill charged by International Business Aviation Services Philippines, which Air Philippines, then controlled by plastics tycoon William Gatchalian, contracted in 1996 to find and hire an outfit in the United States to ferry a Boeing 737 to Subic Bay.

After the delivery, Air Philippines balked at paying the full amount, but eventually relented, releasing to the contractor a down payment of about \$28,000, with the balance payable upon the submission of proper documentation.

In the meantime, "to avoid the corporate embarrassment of Air Philippines' intransigence," the contractor advanced the full payment to its US sub-contractor, and then sued Air Philippines in the Pasay Regional Trial Court for the balance.

To make a long story short, Air

Philippines lost the case by default after its counsel failed to appear during pre-trial days and failed to even submit a pre-trial brief despite asking for several postponements.

In denying the appeal, the high court's First Division also rejected Air Philippines' petition for a new trial, saying that the airline had been "as negligent as its lawyer" despite the airline's claim that it already had replaced Manalo with a new in-house counsel.

"Petitioner (Air Philippines) was not deprived of its day in court," said ponente Justice Artemio Panganiban. "Actually, it never even complained against the manner in which its counsel had handled the case, until late in the day."

"For petitioner to feign and repeatedly insist upon a lack of awareness of the progress of an important litigation is to unmask a penchant for [the] ludicrous," Panganiban added. "Although it expects counsel to protect its interest, it cannot just sit back, relax or await the outcome of its case."

"Indeed, from lethargy is misfortune born."

Heard through the grapevine

MCDONALD'S closed down over the weekend its Save-A-Lot branch in Paragon Tamo, after being caught in between the protracted legal battle over lease rates between landlord Conrad Leviste and mall developer Ramon "RJ" Jacinto.

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John 3:16

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

On the Occasion of
The 5th Death Anniversary of

TEODORO R. PADILLA

(August 24, 1927 – September 15, 1999)

Beloved Husband, Father, Brother, Friend and Exemplary Public Servant

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at the Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park at 6:15 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 PM, and 6:00 PM.

His family asks the pious reader and those whose lives "Justice Teddy" touched, to join them in prayer and remembrance of this very special man.

Renato Constantino

March 10, 1919 - September 15, 1999

On the 5th anniversary of his death, his family remembers him with love and pride.

"From history we learn of the causes of our underdevelopment. We see the colonial condition as the main source of our economic backwardness. And this condition was not abolished with independence; it was merely transformed. We see the economic structure as the basis for the iniquitous political system in which economic privilege becomes the pillar of political power - a power that enhances colonial control and further entrenches the hold of the local elite over the people."

"Development in the Context of Philippine History"
February 28, 1976

JOSE LUIS "LOUIE" C. DEL MORAL

(August 18, 1935 – September 12, 2004)

HIS WIFE
Encarnita Abiera-Del Moral

CHILDREN
Pooh Del Moral-Tioseco

Ana Del Moral-Aisa

SONS-IN-LAW

Larry Tioseco

Rolly Aisa

GRANDCHILDREN

Belle Del Moral Tioseco

Theresa Del Moral Aisa

request for your most gracious prayers.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, San Juan.

Interment is tentatively scheduled on Sunday, 19th of September 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary
of our Beloved

DANTE T. BALMES

who passed away on September 15, 2003

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

Parish of Immaculate Conception, Bauan, Batangas	5:30 a.m.
Basilica de San Martin Tour, Taal, Batangas	6:00 a.m.
St. Raphael Church, Calaca, Batangas	6:00 a.m.
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Manila	6:00 a.m.
St. Francis of Paola Parish, Mabini, Batangas	6:00 a.m.
Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Batangas City	6:15 a.m.
Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 a.m.
Parish of St. Mary Euphrasia, Batangas City	7:00 a.m.
Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila	7:30 a.m.
Iglesia Filipinas Independiente, Batangas City	8:00 a.m.
Parish of San Sebastian, Lipa City, Batangas	8:00 a.m.
Parish of St. Vincent de Paul, San Marcelino, Manila	5:00 p.m.
San Isidro Labrador Church, Batangas City	5:00 p.m.
San Pascual de Baylon Church, San Pascual, Batangas	5:00 p.m.
San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila	5:30 p.m.
Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Mandaluyong City	6:00 p.m.
St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang	6:30 p.m.
Parish of San Felipe Neri, Mandaluyong City	7:00 p.m.

His loving wife Yoli; children Vanesa, Kristine, Angelo and Jonathan; children-in-law Dick, Dondon and Menchie; grandchildren Chino, Justin, Maru, Naia, Joshua and Regina; and his sister Linda, request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers.

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to be present with
the Lord"

Message of Thanks

To all those . . .

Who visited us and thought of us in our time of sorrow,
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Who sent Mass cards, donations and messages of sympathy and condolence,
Who gave us beautiful flowers to express compassion,
Who joined us in our nightly vigils,
Who attended the Masses and funeral rites,
And who, in one way or another
consoled our hearts.

Our Heartfelt Thanks & Appreciation,

From the family of

ANICIA (Necie) G. CANSECO

who joined the Lord on 28 August 2004

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FELIPE SOLIVEN DONATO

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September 15, 2004

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Region XIII

OFFICE OF THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Arabelle Encarnita Abiera-Del Moral has filed a petition to change her first name from Ms. Arabelle to Dante. The petition was filed with the office of the Civil Registrar of the City of Caloocan on February 5, 1946 at Poblacion New Lucena, Caloocan, Rizal and whose parents are Anticito Poblador Sumo and Gregorio Orzco.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this office not later than 17 September 2004.

(Sgd) SUSAN GULANI-DUMAMA
City Civil Registrar

(P.R.C. - Sept. 8 & 16, 2004)

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- 6:00 Opening Ceremonies *Emcee: Anthony Pangilinan
- 6:10 Opening Session by Francis Kong
- 6:30 Welcome Remarks by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, President & CEO, Philippine Daily Inquirer
- Introduction by Ardy Roberto, CEO, Salt & Light Ventures
- Session 1 & 2: Developing the Qualities of a Teamplayer Dr. John Maxwell
- 7:40 Break
- 8:00 Testimony by Chot Reyes, Head Coach of the Coca Cola Tigers
- 8:10 Session 3: Developing a Winning Attitude
- Session 4: Creating Your Roadmap for Success Dr. John Maxwell
- 9:30 End

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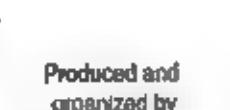
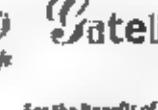
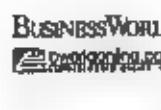
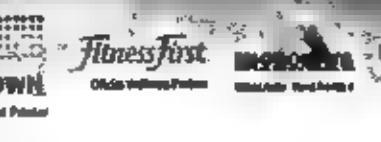
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- 8:30 Opening Ceremonies *Emcee: Anthony Pangilinan
- 8:40 Welcome Remarks by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, President & CEO, Philippine Daily Inquirer
- Introduction by Ardy Roberto, CEO, Salt & Light Ventures
- Morning Session: The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership Dr. John Maxwell
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership (continuation) Dr. John Maxwell
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:30 pm Afternoon Session: Thinking for a Change Dr. John Maxwell
- 3:00 Break
- 3:30 Today Matters
- 5:00 End

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AIM president Roberto de Ocampo (center) and Dean Nieves Confesor received the certificate of accreditation from Dr. Milton Blood, managing director of Accreditation Services of AACSB International in Montreal, Canada.

AIM's degree programs

INITIALLY, the Asian Institute of Management is solely dedicated to enhancing its flagship program: the Masters in Business Administration. But the institute saw the need to keep up with the progressing business environment.

Now, it consists of four schools with five degree programs and several non-degree certificate courses. The oldest school is the Washington SyCip Graduate School of Business (WSGSB), and the three other schools are Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE), Center for Development Management (CDM), and Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center (EXCELL).

The Master in Business Administration and Master in Management are under WSGSB.

The Master in Business Administration offers three majors: Finance, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship. This two-year program focuses on Asian leadership and management practice in the global context. It prepares students to take on top-level jobs of chief executive officers or chief operating officers.

In 1975, AIM introduced its Masters in Management (MM) program. MM is an intensive graduate management program on business leadership and strategic management which is geared for middle managers. Recently, it was designed by a team of faculty led by Prof. Eduardo Morato.

"MM aims to develop not only the functional skills but the person as a leader," said Morato. "We are looking how the head of an organization would integrate all the functional areas."

Professor Jacinto C. Gavino Jr., DPA, wants to stress the mentoring of students by the faculty which is not offered in other MBA programs.

"In their reflection papers, the students express the personal change that happened to them," Gavino said. "They are now looking at purpose or what do they want to achieve in life."

The 11-month MM transforms managers into corporate strategists and top level executives. This is a holistic approach and is also open to non-business professionals who intend to take a different career path. It so hopes to produce more socially responsible managers.

The Center for Development Management (CDM) was established in 1991 to train more competent professionals. CDM specializes in the area of governance, environmental management, development finance, health, education, the management of cities, and regions. Integration.

Under CDM is the Master in Development Management program caters to executives managers who are from the developing nations. They apply the learning of world-class professionals to relevant skills to the public sector. The program exposes students to real-life cases, allowing tremendous opportunities to develop practitioner-oriented knowledge, tools, skills, and techniques in environmental analysis, organizational diagnosis, strategy formulation and evaluation, management functional areas, program and management.

In 1999, AIM established Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE), an 18-month course specially designed for small and medium entrepreneurs. This is AIM's response to the significant number of SMEs which is becoming the lifeblood of the economy. It aims at making entrepreneurs more productive, professional, and profitable, and helps develop not only the business but the entrepreneur also.

In 2001, AsiaWeek rated AIM's Executive MBA (EMBA) No. 1 in Asia. EMBA is under the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center (EXCELL). The participants become lifelong learners whose leadership and managerial capacities strengthen Asian corporations in the global economy.

Here, the program involves the student, the organization or company, and AIM. While the student who is supported by his or her company to the school attends the program, he or she is also tasked to act as a consultant to the company for certain business problems. Each approach is customized to each company. After the program, the student is expected to emerge with a clearer perspective and enhanced skills set for dealing effectively with personal and organizational challenges.

AIM continues to innovate and live up to its goal of promoting international understanding and setting regional standards for excellence as evidenced by its 1998 Ramon Magsaysay Award. The multinational character encourages deep understanding of the cross-cultural issues in the region.

To get to know more about AIM and its programs, there will be an open house on Sept. 21. For more information call 894-0043 or visit www.aim.edu.ph.

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business and man-
in 1968. True to its
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alumni occupy key
governments in the

AIM offers is a
tion process in re-
ge proportion of

its students and graduates come from different parts of Asia.

World-class

According to Roberto de Ocampo, president of AIM, one of the reasons of its continuing internationalization is to strengthen the brand. To do this they address the needs of the market particularly in the region.

AIM is not only confined within the country as it started to promote its programs outside within Asia. There are programs in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and it recently established a training program in Shanghai, China.

"We want to take advantage of our brand recognition to make sure that we would be able to be competitive," De Ocampo said.

AIM recently received two accreditation from

the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) with its European Quality Improvement (Equis) and from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International).

Because the business climate in Asia has improved and experienced a huge change in the past years, premier business schools in Australia, Europe, and the United States saw the potential market and decided to bring them here.

"We continue to take steps to enhance the curriculum, and get the best of the real-world faculty who themselves are experienced executives and senior managers," he said.

Ricardo Lim, associate dean of the W. SyCip Graduate School of Business believes that they are more challenged by the competition than discouraged.

"We are in a very competitive arena," Lim said. AIM is known to be a tough school and there are three things that distinguish them from the schools that followed its lead. He cites rigor, grounding of faculty, and interaction of students.

"We are considered to be one of the most difficult business schools bar none," he Lim likens the training of degree students to "blades." He said rigor makes them sharp because above all the good lessons they get, they also have to experience them or go back to what they are doing. Learn from the theories and apply their learning to their work and/or businesses.

"They come out of here like a samurai sword," he said.

AIM takes their faculty to the real world. Most of the teachers at AIM have 25 or more

years of teaching experience. The multi-cultural community of AIM attests to its commitment in giving world-class education.

"When we teach, it is always healthy skepticism," said Lim who has been teaching at AIM for 13 years.

The students enjoy a healthy discussion with themselves and with the teachers. The case method works effectively with AIM students. In this method the professor is supposed to stay on the sidelines while the students argue or discuss. The learning is not so much on hearing what the other guy has to say.

According to Lim it is when you say things that the thoughts gets processed.

"This school brings out what is tacit ad makes it explicit," Lim said. "It is a term of knowledge management."

"I hear it
up there!"

"No!
It came from
over there!"



"It's right here
beside us!"

"Guys!
It's all around."



Shangri-La Plaza



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BPI presents Real 0% Madness

FROM Sept. 9 to 26, BPI Credit Cards is holding its Real 0% Installment Madness at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City.

BPI Cards' latest Madness is on

PEOPLE who want to get more value for their hard-earned money should check out BPI Credit Cards' ongoing Real 0% Installment Madness at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City from Sept. 9 to 26.

BPI credit cardholders of BPI Express Credit or BPI Class C/Gold/Petron MasterCard or BPI Edge can load up on great offers such as the real 0 percent interest; cash price equals card price for all appliances, and a whole lot more.

The BPI credit card is the only card to have two separate credit lines. The first credit line is for everyday purchases at the grocery, gas station or drugstore. The second line is called S.I.R or Special Installment Plan. The S.I.R can be used to purchase high-

ticket items such as appliances and furniture, and ideal for appliance fairs such as this edition's S.I.R. Installment Madness.

BPI credit cardholders must remember to get their special promo S.I.R for the Installment Madness. Qualified cardholders can avail of up to three times their regular limit during the Madness at the Glorietta.

The participating appliance manufacturers are Ariston, American Home, CCAC & CASC, Electrolux, Fedders, GE, Hyundai, JVC, Kolin, La Germania, LG Electronics, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, TCL, Whirlpool and White Westinghouse.

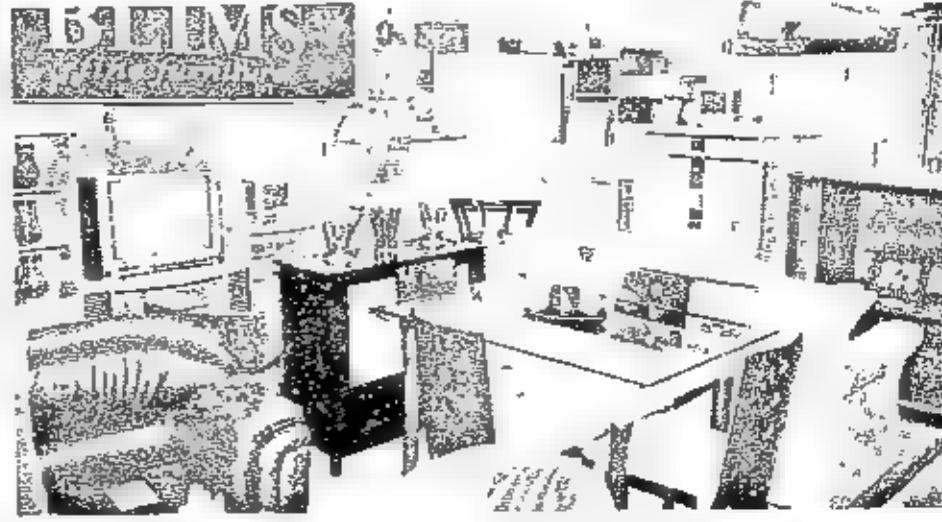
Bumping in the furniture, home accessories and others are Ambiance One, Blims, Casio, Home Options,

HomePlus, Pan-Eurasia (Collins), Naomi Jewelry, Sportshouse and Tesal.

Computers, cellphones and gizmos come from Accent Micro, Canon & Kodak, Columbia Global sales, Compx,

Electroworld, Fujifilm YKL, Manila Imperial Motor Sales, Nokia, Silicon Valley, TCA and Vilman.

The participating dealers are Abenson, Ambassador, Ansons, Automatic Center, Sogo, Waltermart, and Western Marketing.



ARE YOU READY FOR PHOTO PERFECTION BY PIXMA?

Canon

The perfect home for your wines

LOUISVILLE, KY - From Champagne to Bordeaux, the new GE Profile™ Wine Chiller offers the perfect home for your wines. Store and maintain in optimum temperatures up to 29 bottles of your favorite wines in this attractive free-standing wine cellar.

Match your impeccable taste in wines with a wine chiller that meets all of your needs. Designed to perfectly store, keep, and present your wines, this chiller is also simple to control. Easy to use electronic touch controls allow you to select the ideal temperature for your red and white wines with the touch of a finger. The temperature displays on a digital readout programmable in both Fahrenheit and Centigrade. Simply touching the Interior Light control will illuminate the interior cabinet. And don't forget to keep your distinctive inventory safe. The unit comes equipped with a lock and key.

The wine chiller also includes an array of quality features including a bowed triple glass door offering a clear view of the entire inventory while five sturdy chrome shelves give solid support to 25 bottles of your favorite reds or whites. A lower area offers vertical storage for larger bottles, such as sparkling wines or champagnes.

The Profile Wine Chiller (model PWR04FAN) is available in two colors: Black with Stainless Wrap (BS) or Black with Black Wrap (BB).

For more GE products visit its main showrooms on the 5th level of Megamall Building B with Tel. 633-9953 and on the Cinema Level of Glorietta 4 with Tel. 887-0075. GE Appliances also has showrooms in MC Home Dept. (tel. 815-8875), Cybermall in Eastwood City (tel. 687-1566) and Shangri-La Mall (tel. 631-8282). GE Appliances are available at all leading appliance stores nationwide. Official Distributor is CYA Industries with main plant and service center at 109 Mercedes Ave., Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City with Regional Offices in Davao (082) 222-1181, Cebu (032) 344-6925 and Cagayan de Oro (088) 856-4727.



STORE and maintain in optimum temperatures up to 29 bottles of your favorite wines in this attractive GE Profile Wine Chiller.

Official Distributor is CYA Industries with main plant and service center at 109 Mercedes Ave., Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City with Regional Offices in Davao (082) 222-1181, Cebu (032) 344-6925 and Cagayan de Oro (088) 856-4727

Play and sing, enjoy on TV

YES, you read it right! With the new Casio LK 90 TV, you can play your favorite song, belt out a tune, and see everything on TV!



TV Connectivity

Enjoy learning to play along with your friends or the entire family, as it displays the Advanced-3-Step Lesson System on the TV screen. You can also see the lyrics of Sing Along tunes and scores with its unique TV support video systems: PAL (LK-90TV-P), NTSC (LK-90TV-N).

Sing Along

In addition to built-in (Song Bank/Sing Along) tunes, you can also play and sing along with SMP and SMF lyrics data obtained using the Song Expansion systems. The lyrics of built-in (Song Bank/Sing Along) tunes and SMF lyrics tunes can be displayed on a TV screen (English and other Roman alphabet-based languages). It also comes with a plug-in microphone-feature, so you can just plug your microphone and sing galore.

Advanced 3-Step Lesson System

Easy-to-follow Key Lighting teaches you how to play!

Your play is evaluated and a score is assigned for each of the steps of the 3-Step Lesson.

Connection to a TV makes evaluation score results easier to understand, and inspires you to do better. It also lets you enjoy learning with your friends and family, making practice more fun for everyone!

Smart Media Card Slot

You can also expand and enjoy the keyboard lesson and sing along using SMP and SMF lyrics stored in your Smart Media Card. You can create, store and enjoy more music.



After years of developing digital imaging products for the consumer market, Canon is now front of cutting edge technologies. This is why we are introducing our new range of printers known as PIXMA with three major DNA "Photo DNA" technology. First, EOS Digital Camera DNA that comes from the EOS 300D camera. It shows how a professional photo composition and capture this new vision into the PIXMA printers, resulting in excellent photo printing quality. Secondly, Bubble Jet Printing DNA contributes to the engineering of PIXMA's exclusive FINE high-performance print head. Thirdly, imageRUNNER Copier DNA in efficient document handling has been incorporated into PIXMA, providing great printing versatility. So redefine your printing experience by acquiring a PIXMA printer.

- Ultra fine image quality • Ultra fast printing speed • Double-sided printing
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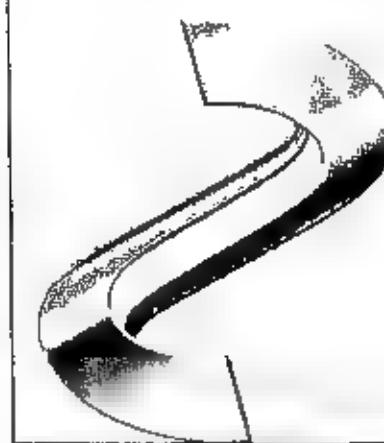


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Special PROJECT.

BPI

33rd BPI INSTALLMENT MADNESS - September 9-26

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CASC-CII
CCAC (CONCEPCION-CARRIER)
FEDDERS
GENERAL ELECTRIC
HYUNDAI ELECTRONICS
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KOLIN
LG ELECTRONICS

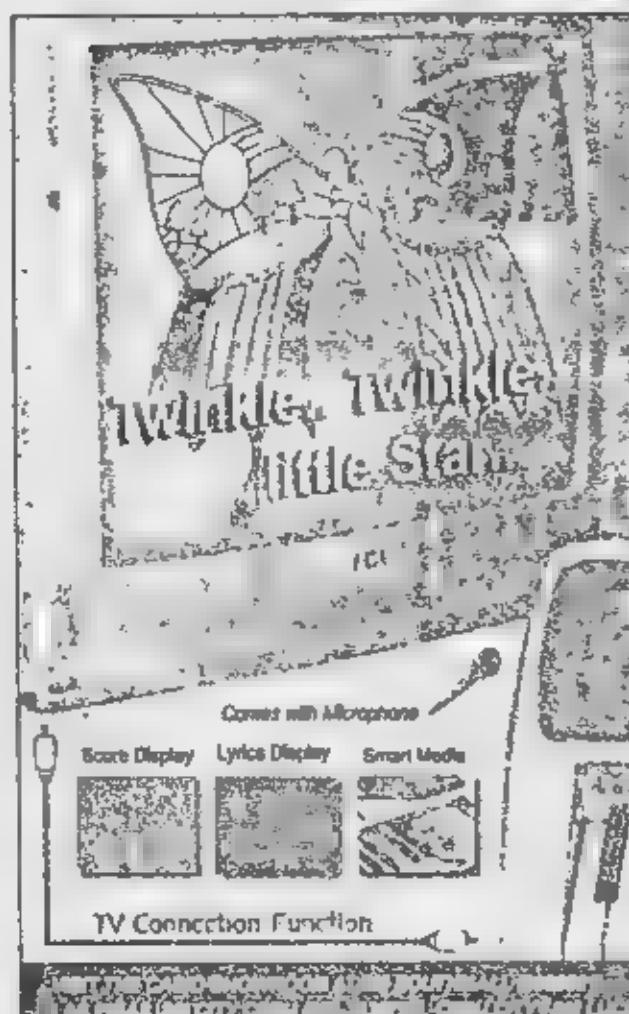
PANASONIC
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WHITE WESTINGHOUSE /
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AMBASADOR HOME ELEC-
TRONICS
TCL SUN INC



BPI Credit Cards

Charge up your buying power up to 30% with BPI's REAL 0% INSTALMENT MADNESS

Only BPI Credit Cards carry two credit lines in one credit card: the regular credit line and the SIP (Special Installment Plan) Line. The SIP is a unique feature exclusive to all BPI Credit Cards. It is an additional credit line that lets cardholders purchase high ticket items on different installment terms to make them more affordable and within reach.



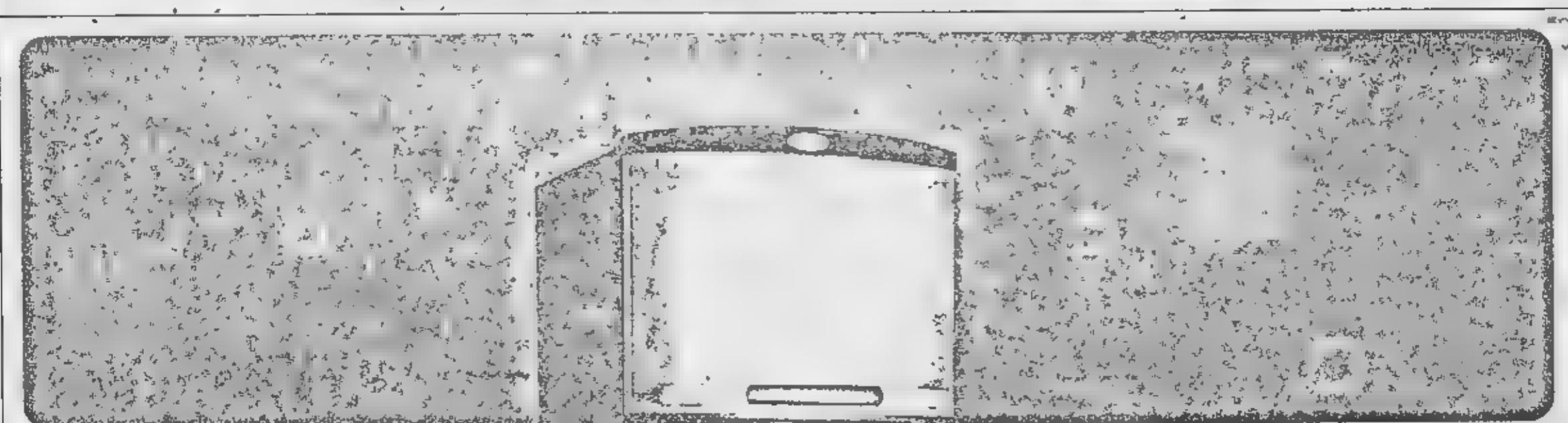
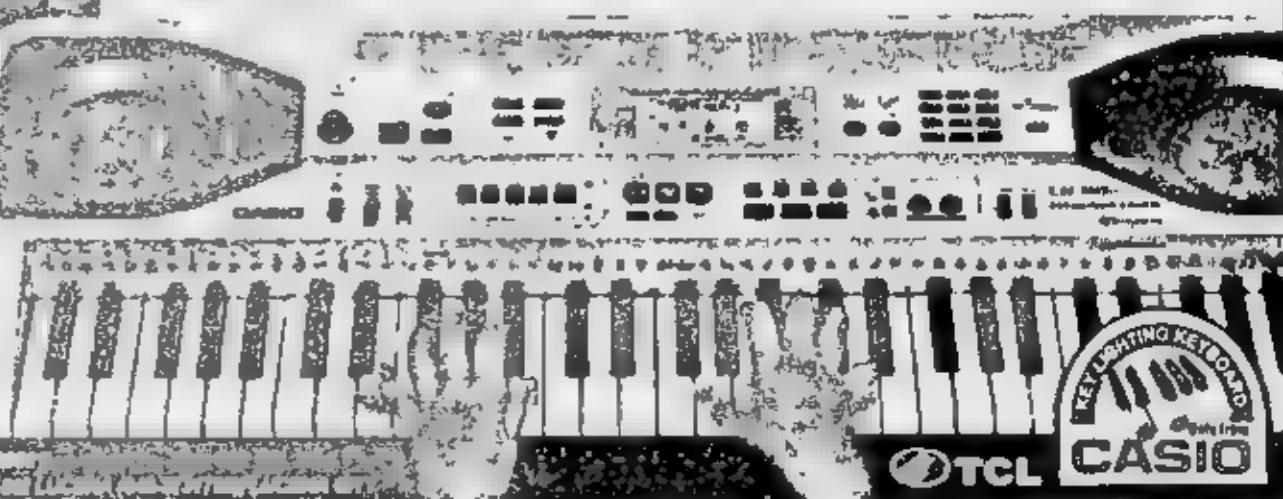
We've discovered a new way to make keyboard playing more pleasurable.

The NEW LK 90TV CONNECTS straight into your TV! Making each Lesson and Sing along more effective and fun for the whole family.

- 81 full-size key w/ Touch Response
- Key Lighting System
- 264 Tones, 120 Rhythms, 100 built-in tunes
- TV connectable function
- Advanced 3-step lesson system
- Sing along function

- Smart Media card slot for Song Expansion
- USB Interface
- New HL sound source
- General MIDI
- Mic-in terminal

LK-90TV



Now cooling...
in 360 degrees

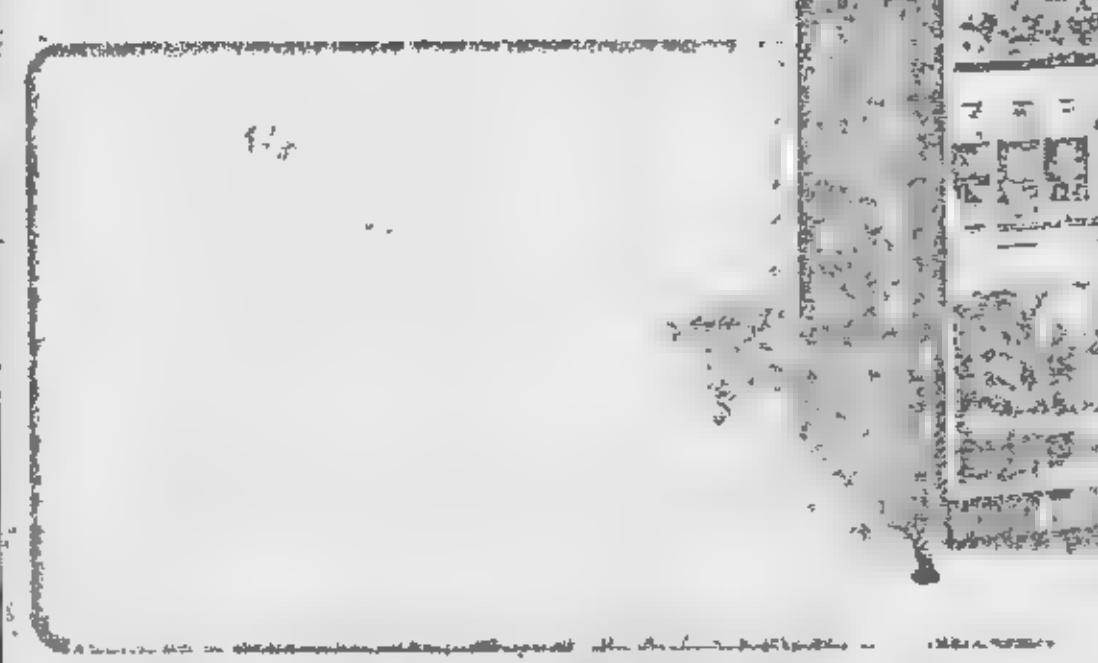
The new Whirlpool Rhapsody No Frost refrigerator. A sleek blend of beauty and function. Makes cooling easy with its 360 degree surround cool system that provides even cooling in all the refrigerator compartments, even food stored at the door shelves. It also has a built-in deodorizer that prevents food odors from mixing with each other, plus a humidity controlled crisper that maintains food freshness.

The new Rhapsody refrigerator with 360 degree surround cool, all around cooling... all around your refrigerator.

Truly a work of art like no other.

WMR 18Q Stainless Steel
18 cu. ft., No Frost

Also available:
WMR 08Q - 8 cu. ft., No Frost
WMR 11Q - 11 cu. ft., No Frost
*Available in Almond and Stainless Steel colors



Distributed by Excellence Appliance Technologies, Inc.



YOU and
Whirlpool,
The world's
best
homemakers.

BPI Credit Card:

Charge up your buying power up to 3 times

BPI CREDIT CARDS is holding its 33rd REAL 0% Installment Madness at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati from Sept. 9 to 26

BPI Credit Cards continue to attract a strong and potent market due to its ever-growing popularity. The Real 0% Installment Madness offers the same highly-anticipated deals for BPI credit cardholders using the BPI Express Credit Classic (Burgundy), BPI Blue, Gold, Petron and Edge Mastercard.

Only BPI Credit Cards carry two credit lines in one credit card: the regular credit line and the SIP (Special Installment Plan) Line. The SIP is a unique feature exclusive to all BPI Credit Cards. It is an additional credit line that lets cardholders purchase high ticket items on different installment terms to make them more affordable and within reach.

Having a separate line for installment purchases allows BPI to offer Real 0% to its credit cardholders. Thus, cardholders do not have to worry about being charged for hidden fees on their purchases. They are not surcharged for what they buy.

And unlike other credit cards, the BPI Credit Cards compute the interest on purchases only on the statement date and not on the posting date. This gives BPI credit cardholders the lowest finance computation in the industry.

What's exciting this 33rd Installment Madness is that BPI credit cardholders get the best Real 0% deals absolutely no hidden charges.

**Cardholders
do not have
to worry
about being
charged for
hidden fees
on their
purchases**

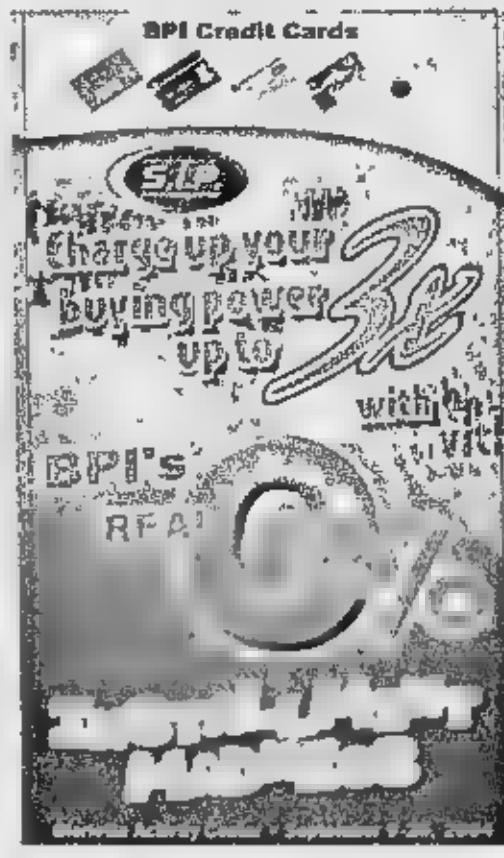
They can also maximize their savings and charge up their buying power up to 3 times their regular credit limit. Plus, with a minimum of purchase of P3,000, cardholders will get a instant prize and get a chance to win either a scooter, digital camera or a portable DVD player with 7" LCD monitor.

And BPI Credit Cards advantage never stops, BPI credit cardholders are also qualified to join the "MAD About 'email!!! promo and go on a shopping spree at Ayala Malls for free.

So make sure you're there and get the best deals ever with the country's top-of-the-line appliances from the following participating brands: Ariston, American Home, CCAC and CASC, Electrolux, Fedders, GE, Hyundai, JVC, Kolin, La Germania, LG Electronics, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, TCL, Whirlpool and White Westinghouse.

Bringing in the furniture and other home furnishing are Ambiance One, Bluns, Casio, Home Options, HomePlus, Pan-Eurasia (Collins).

Computers, cellphones, and gizmos from



Accent Micro, Canon and Kodak, Columbia Global Sales, Compex, Electroworld, Fujifilm YKL, Manila Imperial Motor Sales, Nokia, Silicon Valley, The Computer Authority (TCA) and Villman.

Sports and other offers from Sportshouse, Tefal and Naomi Jewelry. The participating dealers are Abenson, Ambassador, Ansons, Automatic Center, Sogo, Walmart and Western Marketing.



ABENSON

Abenson has always been about appliances.

For nearly 35 years now, we have been providing electronics and appliances for your home. From your living room, dining room, kitchen, and even your bedroom, Abenson has everything to make your home life livelier.

With over 65 stores nationwide, we have a wide network of branches to serve you better. We open stores near your offices and homes. And major appliance manufacturers have constantly awarded us as their Dealer of the Year.

It is all a commitment to provide your home with the best appliances from only the best brands.

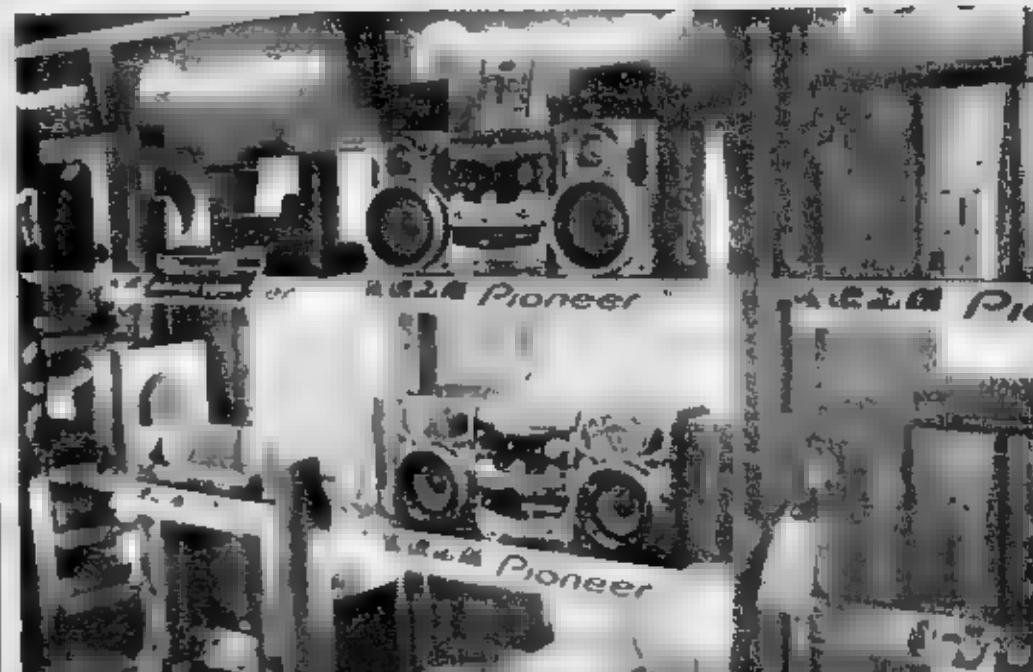
Catch the BPI Madness at the Glorietta activity center! Enjoy 0% Interest Installment* on 3, 6, 9 or 12 months until September 24, 2004.

*On selected items only.

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ABENSON
All About Appliances.

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'I am being retrenched!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM REQUESTING for your advice or opinion on my possible separation from my current company. We are on the second wave of our retrenchment program. In our group, we have been advised, if possible, to reduce by seven employees. The company had no clear criteria at the start on who and how many to retrench. But recently, as discussed with our general manager, the criteria for retrenchment are the cost, the number of employees in the group, and the ability of people to go multi-tasking.

I am the department manager of one of the three departments that shall be merged to form only two departments. I am handling Human Resources, Administration and MIS. I am the most senior, highest paid and, therefore, qualified for the early retirement, among the three department managers.

Our general manager, without much adieu, pinpointed me as one of the "retrenchables" but made it appear to the president that I am volunteering for the retrenchment. Of course, the new president approved it at once, without reviewing further the details of my existence in the company and relying fully on the endorsement of our GM.

Our GM talked to me recently, and so as not to make it appear a painful exit, I must file an application for an early retirement to effect resignation. This will also be implemented for all other candidates for retrenchment. According to them, this is a win-win situation, such that the employee will

Advice

FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

be benefited with 100 percent of his monthly pay for each year of service. However, they will still report this to the Department of Labor and Employment as retrenchment.

What am I supposed to do considering that my position is actively functional? Aside from this, what benefit can I ask for a company under also our mother company, where I am appointed as director and at the same time a signatory for check payments? I know that since the appointment and investment is only in paper, I was not able to clear beforehand the benefits I am entitled to as director and signatory, considering the accountability and responsibility. What can I do?

Reluctant Early Retiree

You have been pinpointed for retrenchment and it looks like you are struggling with the idea. I understand from your letter that you are passively resisting it. This is normal. William Bridges talks about life transitions as this one as a "wilderness" experience, where you get into unknown territory.

What steps can you take so you can move forward? First, get a clean sheet of paper and write down everything that you will lose when you retire. If you don't confront the losses, you will forever be in limbo. Then, take one loss at a time and ask yourself, "What

is the worst thing that can happen to me with this loss?" Then, reflect if in fact the worst things are likely to happen to you. Most often, 80 percent of what you fear has no basis in reality.

Then, write down what you think are the best things that can happen to you with this retirement. Reflect on possible options open to you when you retire. Many people continue to have peak career experiences after retirement in a new part-time or full-time job. Or they go into business creating their own jobs. Some others decide, if the need for earning money is not very intense, to engage in social or volunteer work that challenges their talents and capabilities.

Then, write five small steps to get you started towards the direction you desire. You must recognize that you will go through endings where you will experience a sense of loss. The feelings in this state are demotivation, betrayal, mistrust and the sense of being negatively evaluated. Then, you go through a neutral zone, where you want to move forward but sadness and nostalgia keep you looking backward. Give yourself time to grieve, then, move on to have greater control and confidence in the new beginnings.

Then, as a final note, have a conversation with your GM, clarify the retirement benefits you will get from both your current job and your job as director of another firm. Express yourself with respect but with candor. All the best. God bless you.

(Ms. Puangco is CRO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or fax to 892-2902.)



INQUIRER chair Maricel R. Prieto (third from left) and Land Bank of the Philippines president Gary Teves (extreme right) cut the ribbon at the opening of the recently-concluded two-day learning event, "Business Skills for Everyone." Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left) People at Work editor Regina Reyes, Ancilla president Lot Ortiz Lutz, Ancilla chair Tita Datu Puangco, (at the back) Inquirer SVP Marketing Rene Relnoso, resource person and chair of St. Luke's Hospital Robert Kuan, and Land Bank VP for Facilities Conrado Roxas (partly hidden).

ERICK ARAYA

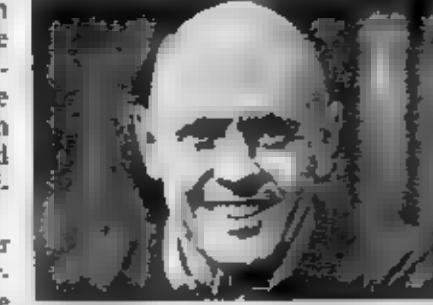
Stephen Covey goes beyond seven habits

THE BOOK, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Dr. Stephen Covey was a groundbreaker when it was first published in 1990, and it continues to be a business best seller with more than 1.5 million copies in 37 languages sold worldwide. Executives, public leaders, managers and private individuals have been touched by the life-changing principles behind Dr. Covey's book.

In November, Stephen R. Covey's much-awaited follow up to this long-time best seller will be launched entitled "The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness," the fourth major work by Dr. Covey, comes at a time when the complexity we face in our personal lives, in our families, in our professions and in our organizations are most challenging. We are struggling to feel engaged, fulfilled and passionate across all areas of our lives.

Tapping into the higher reaches of human genius and motivation—to find what Stephen R. Covey calls our voice—requires a new mindset, a new skill set, a new tool set, a new habit. The eighth habit is the path to finding that voice and one's passion.

"We've felt such passion, such conviction or excitement since my work on the 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People,'" shares Covey. "I believe the reason



COVEY
the "Soul of Execution: Building High Performing Organizations," at the Makati Shangri-La and an afternoon session on the "8th Habit: Live and Work with Passion" at Dusit Nikko Hotel.

The Center for Leadership and Change Inc. (CLCI) is the authorized distributor of FranklinCovey products and services in the Philippines. FranklinCovey Co., a global professional services firm offering learning and performance solutions, was brought about by the synergistic merger between Covey Leadership Center and Franklin Quest Co. CLCI's mission is to inspire and empower individuals and organizations to achieve what matters most through principle-centered living.

For individual, group reservations and sponsorships, call 817-2726, 840-0879, 426-6489.

Refocusing remaining employees after a transition

LAYOFFS can cause significant upheaval within an organization, prompting even the most valued employees who remain employed to be uncertain about their future. While there's a measure of relief in continued employment, a host of other emotions, such as uncertainty, skepticism, and distrust, can dampen morale and slow the organization's momentum toward key objectives.

According to Drake Beam Morin (DBM) Phils., a global company providing outplacement and career management solutions, while many executives overseeing a downsizing provide career transition services for those leaving the organization, many also neglect to deal with the serious issues among those who remain. To stay on course toward objectives, management must have its finger firmly on the pulse of the workforce before, during, and after a downsizing.

First things first

• Perhaps the most serious consequence of not having a clear "reading"

of the workforce after a downsizing is, ironically, additional downsizing—but this time through unexpected and unwanted loss of talent. The employees who remain may wonder if additional reductions are planned and if their own jobs are at risk. They may also be angry about the loss of colleagues and friends. If management tries to move forward without addressing these kinds of issues, many of the people the organization hoped to retain may start looking for other opportunities.

The first step toward retaining key talent after a downsizing is to gain a clear understanding of the issues that most concern remaining employees. This must be done quickly. An employer just has one to three months to address employee dissatisfaction after a downsizing. If an organization waits until financial conditions improve, for example, it may be too late to save the very employees needed to move the organization forward.

DBM offers its Retained Employees Study as one way that organizations can

identify these issues. DBM consultants interview employees to identify the issues they are grappling with after a downsizing. Experience has shown that this objective and confidential third-party approach is more likely to yield honest reactions and feelings than internal interviews or surveys. Once the interviews are completed, DBM specialists analyze the results to identify targeted strategies for addressing the employees' concerns, boosting morale, and strengthening loyalty to the organization.

The key to successful retention after a downsizing is immediate action. Too many senior executives breathe a collective sigh of relief after the painful workforce reductions have been completed. But the layoffs are just the first part of a successful restructuring.

The second critical step is to implement the appropriate interventions that will make the remaining employees want to stay. And that can't be done without first understanding and addressing the factors that may cause them to leave.

Memories for your love bank

WORKING MOM

Gina Abuyuan-Llaines



Here's several minutes sans camera with one twin, Mares, on a late May eve.
Curve of cheek
On curious head
Wide of eye
His lashes toward the sky
White arms
His fingers curled
As he struggles to the edge of

this world,
This bed,
Pink of sheet
Now he's beneath
His victorious back
That with a swirl
His body comes unfurled
And he stares at me
And talks to me
With the bow of his lip
And a silent grunt.
He tries to comprehend,
His hands round my arm,
His eyes watch my pen dance,
Entranced.
I am creating words, anak.
On paper
And as I speak.

And as I see your tiny nostrils
flare
I do not dare
Stop.
As I may miss
The fleeting beauty of each twist
Of your perfect head
Each class
Of your seashell fingers.
"Mommy, are you finished?"
I know you ask,
As the pen pauses.
No baby,
I'm just taking a break
To look at you
To marvel at you
To smile at you
To hear you

And to feel your feet
Against my hip.
You touch my lips
And you snort a little
And you turn away,
And turn back.
And everything you do
Is magnificent.
You are Magnificence.
You are my Mateo.

(Gina Abuyuan-Llaines is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. For more about extracting the most out of life, family, and career, get the September issue of Working Mom, with Marjorie Barretto on the cover. Feedback is welcome at gina_llaines@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

PEOPLE at WORK

Text us your feedback: Inquirer new name/obj/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Raul O. Marcos
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How do you manage your time?



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DEAR WW: I just got a serious shot fired across my bow. I had a heart attack. My doc says scale back, but I only know how to work 12-hour days.

Staying Alive

I recently came across an organization called the Association of Dead People. You might not think that dead people need to organize, but in India they do because there is a growing incidence of family members declaring a relative dead and then stealing his property. The government is little help: officials often refuse to believe the person isn't dead—even when he's standing right in front of them.

Well, those bureaucrats may be little help to "grieving" relatives, but they've got a lot to teach you especially if you want to avoid becoming an honorary member of the Association. Do what they do: less! The tips below will help you start taking control of your attitude and your schedule. Check out Stephanie Wilson's book, "Getting Out From Under" (Perseus, 1999).

Delegation

Do you assign everything with equal priority? If you're a workaholic, chances are you're also a perfectionist and that is a stress-inducing, time-consuming habit. Well, here's a radical—but vital—idea. Everything doesn't have to be done equally well. Some tasks require 100 percent effort, but others require only 50 percent. And—good grief! some may even require zero percent! Take a hard look at your to-do list and divide it into three groups: 100, 50 and 0. Then, spend your time accordingly. Yup, it'll feel awful at first. But do it for two weeks and I bet NO ONE notices any difference in the quality of your output. Think of it this way: spending less time on some tasks gives you more time for the really important stuff.

Do you avoid sharing and delegating responsibilities? Sure, no one can do the job as well as you can. But remember: that's the attitude that landed you in the ICU. It's time to share the workload. And not just for your sake, but for theirs. Employees want meaningful assignments: it makes them feel valued and committed to their jobs. Plus, meaningful assignments enable workers to learn and grow.

Priorities

Do you have a hard time saying no? It's one thing to be a team player; it's another to do other people's jobs. Before agreeing to an assignment, make sure it really belongs on your desk. Save your time and energy for your priorities, and let other people take care of their own.

Do you have a fear of being judged inadequate? Not to get too touchy-feely about it, but most workaholics and perfectionists fear (deep down) that if they stop being Superman or Wonder Woman for even a minute, their whole house of cards will come tumbling down. It isn't true—but we have a hard time believing otherwise. Get a healthier perspective by seeing a therapist who can help you examine that feeling.

Follow these tips, or your relatives will be divvying up the furniture and you won't need help from the government.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCNews.com online ballot: Which time management technique is the hardest for you to do?

- Just say no, 20.4 percent
- Delegate, 31.1 percent
- Prioritize, 48.4 percent

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com)



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LIFE STYLE



FOOD
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JUSTICE

Fred Lubang of the GZO Peace Institute is at the forefront of a campaign to bring reconciliation and harmony to the world's most troubled spots

**Text and photos by Maui V. Reyes
2bU Correspondent**

FRED Lubang has a mission. Today, it's some last-minute filing and organizing before flying to Ottawa for a symposium with other international groups tomorrow.

A stack of colorful tarps occupy a small table at the corner of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute's conference room, where Lubang is leafing through sheets of paper. Posters with messages screaming "No to War" and "No to Landmines" cover white-washed walls. Laminated blown-up photos of colorful murals drawn by school children from all over the country are prominently displayed in the conference room, all inspired by one theme: "Peace."

Lubang is the program director for the GZO Peace Institute, an institute committed to building a Filipino society that abhors war and destruction. Formed in the early '90s, the Peace Institute's programs include giving peace talks to communities, organizing fund raisers, and coming up with campaigns on peace-related issues, like the proliferation of small arms and humanitarian concerns.

In short, the organization believes that war is not the answer. For them, "national security is defined not in terms of national defense capabilities, but rather in terms of the protection and security of human rights, and the welfare of its people and of the environment."

Getting their voices heard

Lubang's desire to be a peace advocate started in his college days at the University of the Philippines, where he did research on the progress of peace talks between the MILF and the government. His interest in anti-landmine campaigns led him to join GZO.

"It was scary at first," he says. "In 1998 I went to the Abu Bakar Camp, and it was my first engagement with the leadership of the MILF, para lang maintindihan nta na hindi hamayung paggaganit ng land mines." Apparently, that was the time the military was conducting several bombings, and snipers surrounded the area.

"I could hear the bombs going off, and the MILF didn't want to accompany me outside the place because it was dangerous for them. So I had to walk al the way back by myself. I was so relieved as soon as I reached the nearest town, where there were a lot of people."

Lubang's work for GZO has brought him to places like Kabul and Bosnia, where he engaged in peace talks with the rebels and the government. "You get used to it after you've done it a couple of times," he says.

So why do people like him risk their lives by going into conflicted areas? Simple: to get their voices heard. And surprisingly, the government is listening.

Last month, the President passed an executive order designating September as a "Peace Month." GZO jumped at the opportunity to get its message out, getting together various NGOs to come up with a series of activities to generate awareness about different peace issues.

Thus, film screenings, poster-making contests and exhibits are slated to take place within the month, in various places in the country.

But what Lubang is focused on right now is the campaign to ban land mines. In fact, the symposium he's attending in Ottawa is about the UN Treaty with Nairobi and its ban on land mines. He's hoping the UN would reach the same accord with other countries.

"It's a humanitarian aspect. Even in war

WAR C2

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Editor Cheo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor



War is not the answer

"It's important to instill the spirit of peace in young people," says Fred Lubang.



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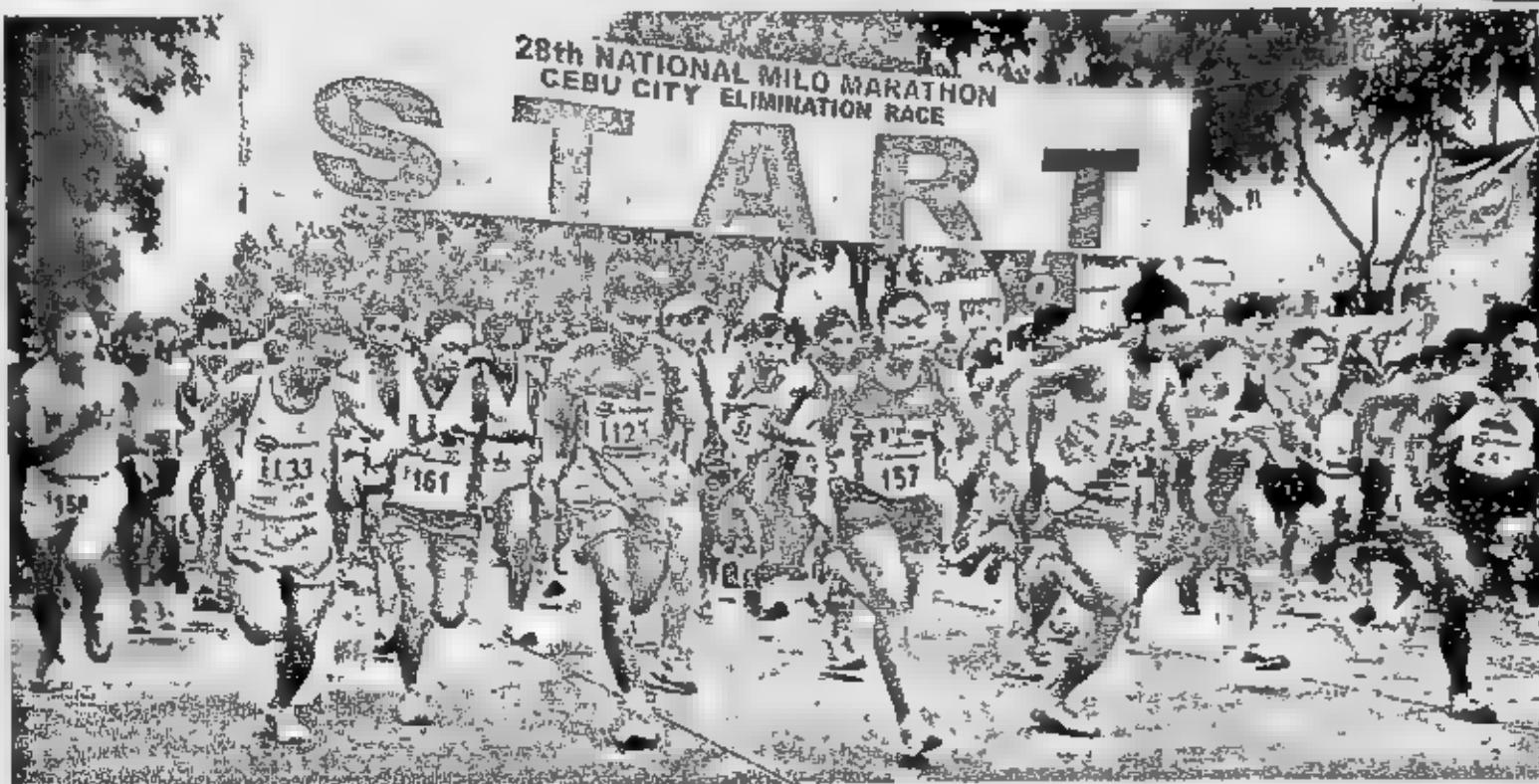
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21-K mass start

18,000 people, 21 km of concrete, two hours of sweat—all for one moment of glory in the southern leg of the Manila Marathon



DRAMA at the finish line

Fun run in Cebu



CHRISTY Sevillano, winner of the 21-K run, women's category

By Javier Mata
2bUI Correspondent

CEBU last Aug. 16 was a sight to behold. Thousands of people, most of them wearing the same green uniform, converged in one spot for the Cebu leg of the 28th Milo Marathon.

With a record 18,000 registered runners, it was by far the most successful leg of the series. It took a full five minutes before the starting line was emptied of runners!

People already filled the starting line at the crack of dawn. The runners were first separated by categories. In front of the pack were the serious contenders, those running for 21 km before reaching the finish line.

Behind them were placed the little kids aged 6 to 12 years old, who were running just 3 km of the track. Finally, behind the little runts were the casual marathoners or "fun runners," who were to tackle 5 km of the race.

Cebu mayor Sonny Osmeña fired three shots to mark the start of the race, and the runners were off first the 21K runners, then the kids (who were so excited to run they forgot they were supposed to start by the second shot), and finally the fun runners, who were the largest contingent.

joyful finish

A little over 15 minutes passed before the first of the kiddie runners reached the finish line. The young ones smiled with relief once they crossed the tape. The scene wasn't entirely joyful, however, as several older runners reached the finished line by accidentally taking the 3K section of the race, leading to their disqualification.

Ten minutes after the last of the kids finished, the first of the 5K runners started pouring into the finish line, and officials had their work cut out for them as they tried to sort the times of each of the finishers for a good part of the hour.



WINNERS of the 21K men's category

What to do while waiting for the serious runners to arrive? Entertainment, of course. Local band First Step provided music as the organizers prepared the cheerleading competition among elementary and high school students.

The cheerleading was a not—not your usual pom-pom routine, but more with "Otso-Otso" and "Pamela" moves and even Sandara Park's Queen-of-England wave!

Like clockwork, the 21K runners arrived soon after the cheerleading com-

pition. You could almost hear the "Chariots of Fire" theme play as they crossed the finish line.

Shortly after, the race officials were done with the tabulations of race winners for each category, and the awarding saw the winners basking on stage in their moment of glory. Those who finished the race on time were given certificates, while the winners of the 21K track will compete in the national event of the Milo Marathon in Manila in November.

Be A Peace Advocate

By Maui V. Reyes

WHILE it's not enough to slap on a "Honk if you want Peace!" bumper sticker at the back of your car, every little action helps. Here are a few suggestions how you can fight the war for peace.

Organize Something.

As cliché as it sounds, the youth (that's you) is the future. We have the capacity to organize ourselves—so let's do it. Bring the community together, or your barkada together, and talk amongst yourselves the issues that are most important to you. If there's one thing that we all have in common, it's our need for security.

Keep an Open Mind.

What makes the youth rock is that we're more connected than other generations, thanks to the world wide web and easier access to international organizations. Being exposed to more cultures gives us an open mind about things, and we ought to keep it that way. Expand your views and form new opinions by inviting organizations like GZO to give talks at your school or work.

Show your Support!

Giving even just a small percentage of your allowance to peace groups or even sticking a "Kapayapaan" logo on your car can go a long way. Pick an issue that interests you and see what you can do to support that issue. If it's the banning of land mines you're interested in, you might want to check out <http://www.icbl.org>.

Or, stop by any of the activities for Peace Month:

- Sept. 17 – Gains and Challenges in Peace Building Seminar, 1-5 p.m. at the Environmental Studies Institute Bldg @ Miriam College, QC
- Sept. 21 – Peace Month Exhibit and Book Launching @ 5th floor SM Megamall – Interfaith Dialogue Series, Is...
- An Evening to Honor the Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumnae Peace Advocates @ Miriam College, QC
- Associate of Major Superiors of the Philippines Peace March and Activists, 2 p.m. @ Quezon City Circle
- Sept. 21-24 – Cinema Without Borders: A Showcase of Film and Video Documentaries on Peace, Justice and Human Rights @ Philippine Normal University, 15...
- International Day of Peace Exhibit, "Campaign Against Small Arms" and Poster Making contest on "No War Toys This Christmas" @ Miriam College, QC
- Sept. 24-26 – Peace Camp, "Handling Conflict Towards Transformation: A Challenge for the Youth" @ Pax Christi Pilipinas, Negros Occidental
- Sept. 26 – Bike for Peace @ Quezon City Memorial Circle

- Human Rights Concert @ San Rafael Parish, Balut, Tondo, Manila

■ Sept. 27 – Exhibit, "Campaign Against Small Arms" @ Glorieta, Makati (between Glorieta and McDonald's)

■ Sept. 30 – Peace Concert and Awarding of Poster Making Contest @ ULTRA, Pasig City

■ Volunteer

No, you won't be sent to rebel camps across the country. Contact the GZO Institute at 2/F Joseph Cardinal Hoffer Social Training Center, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Tel. No. 4266001 loc. 4826 or 4266112, or e-mail peace@codewan.com.ph or gzo-peace@admu.edu.ph, or log on to www.justpeace.net.ph

■ Sept. 21-24 – Cinema Without Borders: A Showcase of Film and Video Documentaries on Peace, Justice and Human Rights @ Philippine Normal University, 15...

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War is not . . .

From page C1

there are limits, and with land mines, it's mostly the civilians who end up as victims," he says.

Every year, there are almost 20,000 landmine casualties, or about two victims every hour. Two out of ten victims are civilians. A 2000 Landmine Monitor Report stated that a rebel group in the Philippines alone had planted as many as 3,000 homemade mines.

Fortunately, GZO seems to be succeeding in the Philippines. It has managed to coax the government and three Philippine rebel groups to sign a deed of commitment saying they wouldn't use land mines anymore.

"Sexifying" peace

GZO also works hard to promote its other programs, which includes "Healing the Peace Advocates", which help peace workers de-

stress and learn crisis management. Child therapy is also provided for children from conflicted areas, while an international project, "1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize", nominates peace workers for the prestigious recognition.

Lubang laments that the project's biggest challenge can be found on campus: the lack of awareness among young people about peace issues.

"It's hard to let people get to know about the project," he says. "You always have to find an interesting slant in anything that has to do with peace. When I gave a talk in Quezon City about the abuse of firearms, all they wanted to hear was Angelo dela Cruz or Kris Aquino. It is a challenge for advocates to make peace talks interesting. It seems like the public only wants to hear stories about war and other controversial topics."

In fact, a study conducted last year by the Peace Institute on media behavior said that whenever the topic of peace came up on TV, three out of ten viewers turned their television sets off.

"Viewers want war, violence, sex," says Lubang. "That is why to get our message across, we have to make peace look 'in'. We have to 'sexify' peace."

Still, he remains optimistic. "We can do this with little steps. First, we have to create consciousness, with the flags (that we're selling) and the different activities lined up, until we form a peace constituency."

"The youth are the leaders of tomorrow," he adds. "Which is why it's important to instill the spirit of peace in them."

They could have danced all night

MARK your calendar. The year's biggest and most-awaited inter-school dance competition, the Freeway In Motion Dance Face-off, will take place on Sept. 18, Saturday, 5 p.m., at the SM Megamall Activity Center. Dance groups from eight schools will groove their way to over P100,000 worth of prizes, with Freeway's very own G Tongi to judge and show off her own moves!

We witnessed high-energy and breathtaking moves during the contest eliminations held last Sept. 4 at the Centro Flamenco dance studio. Fifteen groups, selected from numerous submissions nationwide, made the judges' jaws drop with amazement. They turned, kicked, split, screamed, producing a high-octane show.

COO Sheree Roxas-Chua, one of the judges, said, "I never thought a lot of young

girls today have extreme talent in dancing! And choosing the 8 schools to compete for the finals was not easy at all."

At the end of the day, eight groups were selected to compete for the grand finals. These were the groups with the most outstanding choreography, remarkable synchronization, best stage presence and audience impact, most appropriate outfit and style, and the most undeniable Freeway appeal. These lucky groups include De La Salle University (Dynamix), Miriam College QC (C-CATT Street Dancers), Miriam High School QC (Sayawatha), Polytechnic University of the Philippines (Movez in Motion), Technological University of the Philippines (Bahaghari), University of the Philippines-Diliman (Street Dance Club), and University of the Philip-

pines-Manila (Indayog).

Now, who would want to miss this? Bring your booty to SM Megamall on September 18 and witness what we're all buzzing about!

Call TL (0917-3280814) or Rita (0921-2015372).

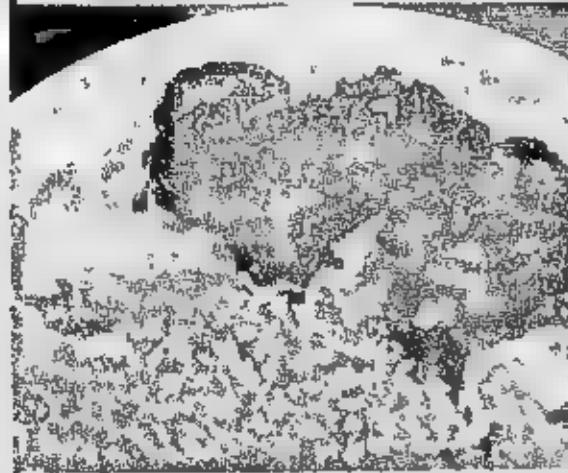
Freeway has 25 branches at the following malls: Abenao Square Baguio City; SM Megamall; Ali Mall, SM North Edsa; Festival Supermall Alabang; SM Pampanga; Glorieta; SM Southmall; Pavilion Mall; SM Sucat; Robinson's Galleria; SM Fairview; Robinson's Place Manila; Lumbini Mall-Cagayan de Oro; Robinson's Novacelches, Alabang Town Center; Robinson's Metro East Pasig, Ayala Center Cebu; SM Bacoor; SM Ililo; SM Bicutan; Edsa Central; SM Lucena; SM Dasmarinas; and SM Marilao.

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MIRIAM College "Street Dancers"

RESTO OF THE WEEK



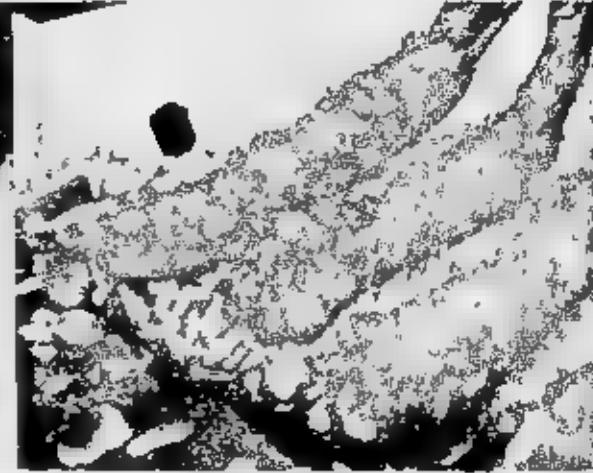
CHICKEN Teriyaki Rice Casserole



GRILLED Vegetable Teppanyaki Salad



JAPANESE Seafood Soup Spaghetti



FRIED Prawn Curry with Rice

More than just coffee

By Pam Pastor

PEOPLE go to coffee shops for coffee, not for food. And for good reason. How many of your café visits have involved subjecting yourself to the torture of choking down pastry that's less than tasty?

But here's good news for caffeine addicts.

UCC (Ueshima Coffee Company) Coffee, which is popular for using its siphon method of making coffee, is changing the way people enjoy their trips to coffee shops. A recent visit to their Café Terrace in Fort Bonifacio proved to be a treat. There is no doubt that their extensive menu will not only please coffee enthusiasts, but would charm food lovers as well.

Our meal started with two refreshing salads: Japanese Seafood Salad and Grilled Vegetable Teppanyaki Salad.

Seafood lovers will find the Japanese Seafood Salad delightful. The huge serving of tossed iceberg lettuce, sweet corn, rice and crab meat topped with breaded scallops, cuttlefish and prawn served with Japanese dressing can be a meal on its own. The Grilled Vegetable Teppanyaki Salad—iceberg lettuce topped with grilled tomato, asparagus, eggplant, bell pepper, mushrooms and tuna fillet flavored with teppanyaki sauce and served with special Japanese dressing—is also a discovery for people who love their greens.

UCC's menu may have been modified to cater to the Filipino palate but the Japanese influence is still evident in a number of dishes. And that's not a bad thing. The fusion of different tastes is an adventure for your taste buds.

Secret sauce

If you are not averse to curry, The Fried Prawn Curry with Rice is a must-try. Deep fried breaded prawns served on top of Japanese rice may not sound extraordinary, but the secret lies in the Japanese curry sauce, which is made of over 30 different spices and vegetables.

People who enjoy pasta should try the Japanese Seafood Soup Spaghetti. The rich noodle soup is served with shrimps, New Zealand mussels, scallops and cuttlefish. We had the creamy tomato version but diners are given

en three options—tomato, white or curry sauce.

The Chicken Teriyaki Rice Casserole is so good it's almost sinful. Deep fried teriyaki-flavored chicken served on top of flavorful curry rice and covered with Japanese white sauce can only be described as heaven on a plate. I loved this dish so much that after a full day of craving, I went all the way to UCC at the Fort at midnight only to be crushed by the realization that the place was already closed.

UCC Coffee's selection of desserts will definitely make your mouth water. It's another reason to succumb to UCC's charms. There were so many options—including a "lava" cake with flowing chocolate—that it was difficult to choose just one.

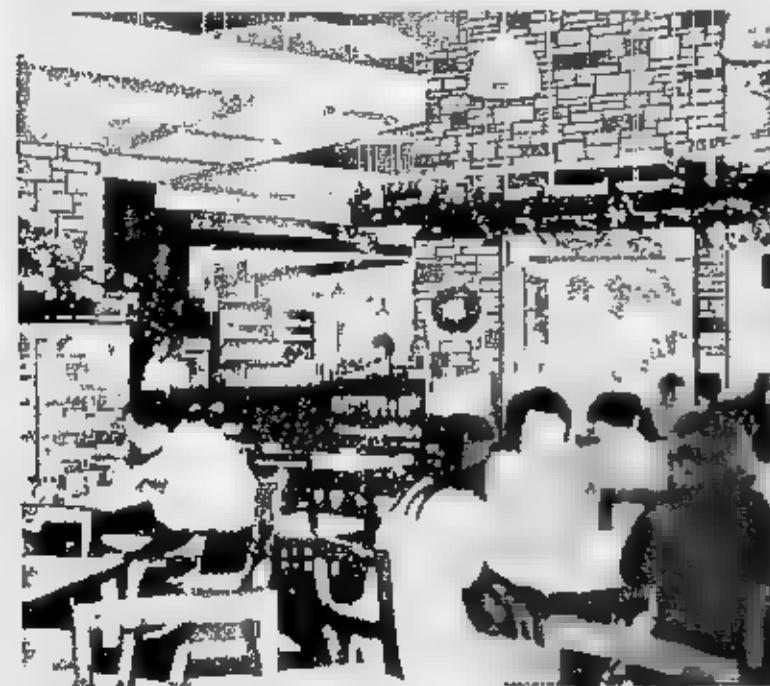
We finally opted for the Chocolate Pinipig Crunch—UCC's take on the old ice cream favorite. It did not disappoint. Our taste buds took sheer pleasure from the layers of chocolate fudge and mousse, crunchy pinipig and luscious chocolate syrup.

The vanilla ice cream which was served with the cake provided balance and softened the strong flavors of the rich chocolate. It was a great ending to a great meal.

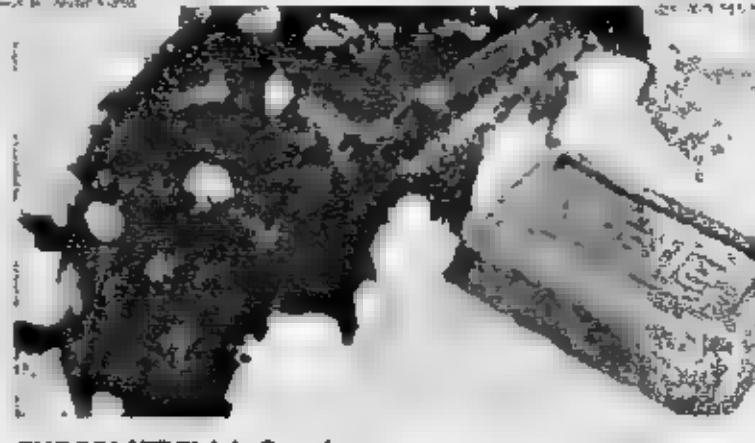
Well, I'm no coffee drinker but I'm willing to make this place my new home.

UCC Coffee Café Terrace has branches at the ground floor of The Forbeswood Town Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and The Paseo Center, Paseo De Roxas corner Sedesio St., Salcedo Village, Makati. Visit UCC Coffee Vienna Café branches at Tomas Morato corner Scout Castor Quezon City; 59 Unit-A Connecticut Street, Greenhills, San Juan and The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



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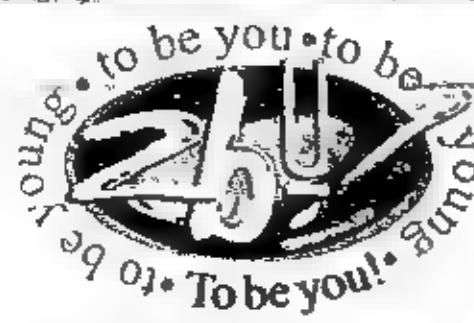
Question of the Week

What stories do you like to read in the Real Estate section?

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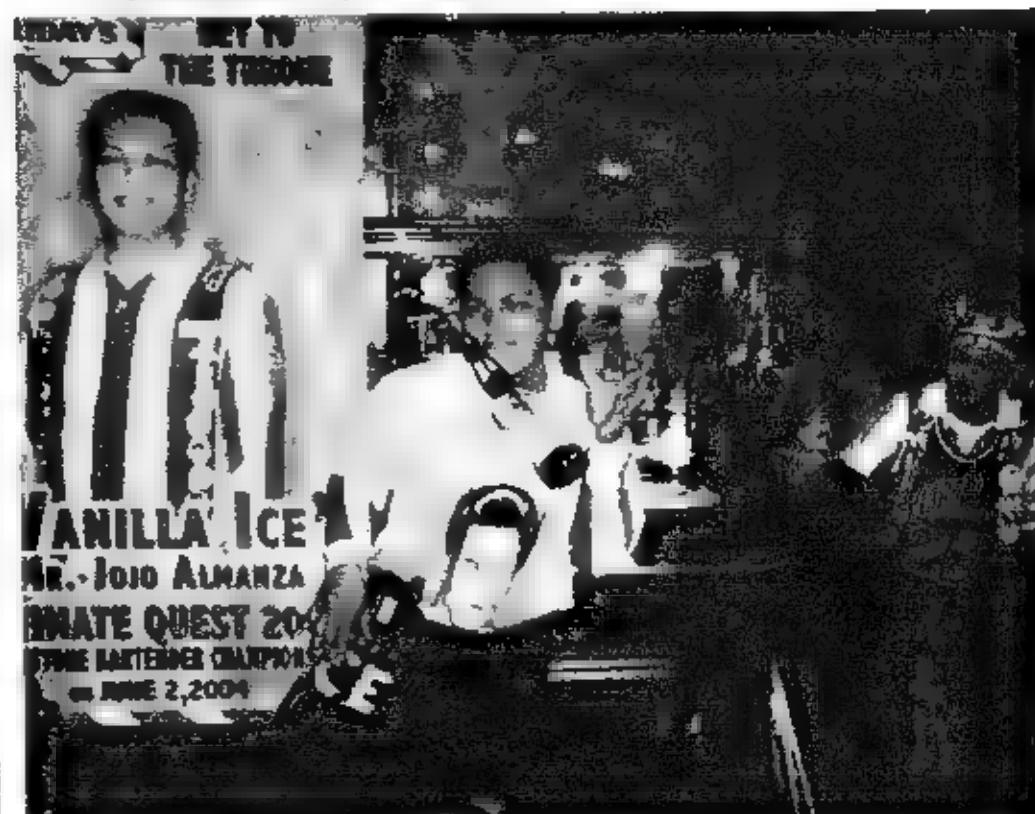
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All-imported from Germany



JOJO "Vanilla Ice" Almanza shows why he's this year's TGI Friday's bartending champ.

Shake, rattle and pour

By Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc
Contributor

GTOENGI did it. Even Cindy Kurleto is getting into the act. Bartending is becoming a cool thing to do, and there's probably no better way to get inspired about becoming one than by watching TGI Friday's bartending championship.

An annual contest among the resto's bartenders, the event is held to decide the country's representative in the regional tilt to be held in Guam. If lucky, he or she can even go on to face other regional winners for the World Bartender Championship in the Bahamas. Bartending is clearly more than just pouring drinks.

Despite the heavy rains, fans of both the competitors and of Friday's good food filled TGI Friday's Glorietta to the rafters. Previously, the five contestants from the different branches had undergone a behind-the-scenes comprehensive skills competition, where they demonstrated their knowledge of Friday's food and drinks, their speed in making drinks, and even their ability to serve wine correctly, among others.

They were even tested on the proper way to cut pineapple (yes, there is such a thing, so



IS SHE for real? Cindy Kurleto does some bottle-flipping of her own.

that the pineapple slices decorating our cocktails would still look fresh and not mushy.) For that night, however, the first event was the pour-off competition, where each contestant tried to pour exactly 2 ounces of a drink (or whatever the required amount was), without using any measuring devices.

Freestyle highlight

The highlight of the night, though, was the freestyle competition, where the bartenders spun and juggled bottles and glasses, all the while preparing the drinks which the judges had chosen.

First on the list was Rue. "Twister" Quadra from TGI Friday's Aabang. True to his name, he twisted his arms and body while throwing and catching liquor bottles. He even flipped around a strawberry shake of sorts, without spilling both the drink and the whipped cream topping!

Larry "Flairdevil" Guevara of the Malate branch was a crowd favorite, grinning widely from ear to ear as he danced energetically to the latest hip-hop tunes, all the while spinning bottles, straws and even tissue paper.

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia branch's bet, Mike "311" Abalos, flipped ice cubes and juggled the kitchen blender. Who says only bottles can be juggled?

The competition became more intense when the next contender, Troy "Spawn" Ilarde of Quezon City, showed off the stuff that made him last year's champion. He opened his routine with a clever card trick, and then proceeded to his almost-flawless juggling act.

Last to present was Jojo "Vanilla Ice" Almanza of Glorietta. In between flipping bottles, he pulled out a flower bouquet for Cindy Kurleto, one of the judges for the evening. After each 15-minute routine, hosts Maxspeed and Tetanews from Magic 89.9 auctioned off drinks concocted by the bartenders, which had the male guests scrambling to buy Cindy's Sex on the Beach.

Ladies' spot

"Celebrity Flair" followed, where Cindy Kurleto did some bottle-flipping of her own. Two girl bartenders also performed a synchronized routine of their own. Although less complicated than that of the all-male contestants, it still inspired the ladies in the audience to someday go into bartending.

Jojo "Vanilla Ice" later emerged over-all champion, taking home, among others, goodie bags from Rudy Project and a trip to Boracay.

At which point I made a resolution to start flipping bottles in the kitchen to jumpstart my own bartending career. In the meantime, I guess I'll have to content myself with just watching these guys juggle bottles and blenders.

One thing's for sure though. The next time I go to Friday's, I'm definitely going to sit at the bar and I'll definitely order something other than my usual beer. I might just be lucky enough to have my drinks done by the next world bartending champ.

Spoon interactive arts WINS in the Sony Ericsson Game Developers Challenge September 2004

GearBox: Puzzle Party is an innovative and challenging puzzle game for both young and old. The developers add a new dimension to one of the most popular game genres by presenting the gamer an exciting mix of Puzzle Game and Beat'em Up features which will probably appeal to many.

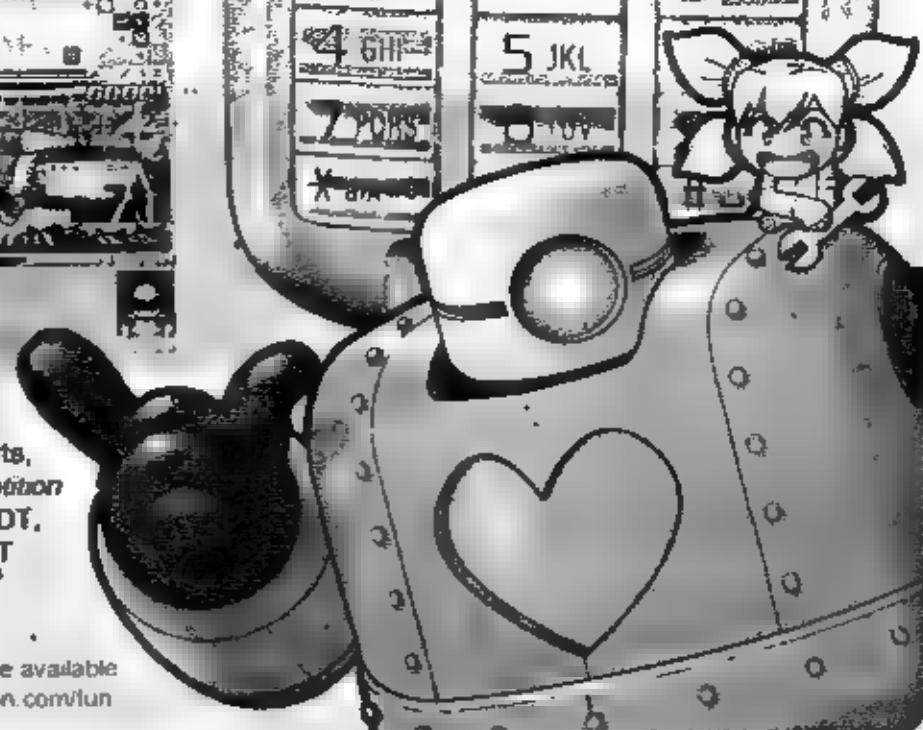
— from the Sony Ericsson Game Developers Challenge 2004 Competition Jury



This is a back-to-back accomplishment for Spoon Interactive Arts, having won last year's Sony Ericsson Code-to-Cash P800 Competition. Spoon Interactive Arts is the content development division of ePLDT, the information and communications technology company of PLDT.

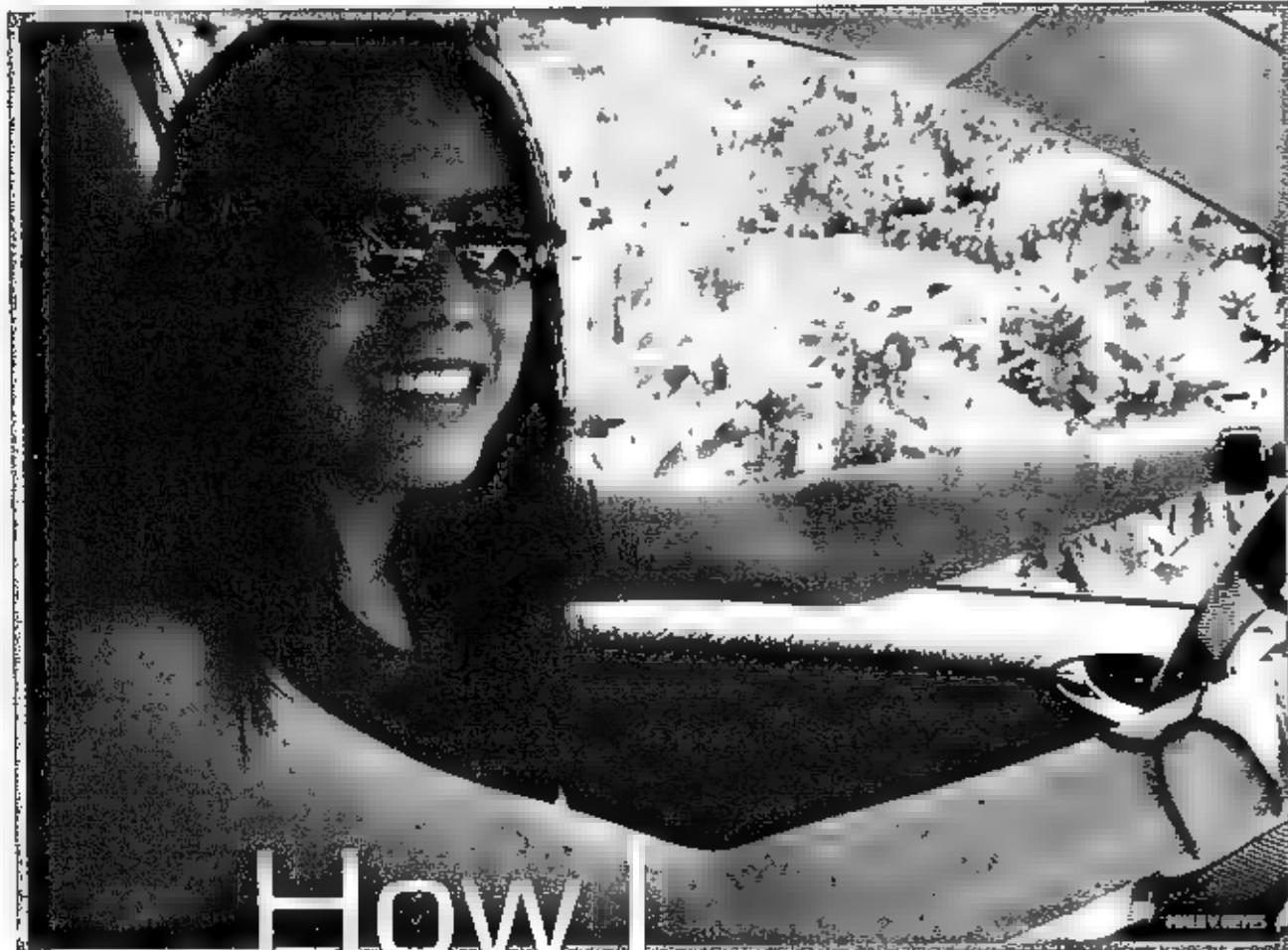


*GearBox: Puzzle Party will soon be available for download on www.sonyericsson.com/unin





LIFE STYLE



How I jazzed up my weekend

By Maui V. Reyes, 2bU! Correspondent
and Ian Magbanua, Contributor

I KNOW absolutely nothing about cars, except that it's a mechanism on four wheels and that I've gotten into three accidents while driving one (my insurance

HOW/DOZ

I'm so in love with the Honda Jazz, which I got to road-test for seven days, that I wanted to sleep in it the night before it was picked up.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SHOPPING COULD GIVE YOU A NEW CAR?



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ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
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	A Love to Share (Acoustic)	100894

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ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
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	Rainbow (Remix)	100612

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ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
UAAP	Tried Everything	102004
Wesley Gonzales	Big Hands Big Heart	102008
Rich Alvarez		

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ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
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Aubrey Miles & Ara Mina		
Marc Nelson	Marc Nelson	100477

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SMART



My life as a ringtone

HELLO? Tim Yap here. What? You'd have to talk a little louder—I'm at a party! Fun, fun, fun—party, party, party!"

If you happen to call me on my mobile number, this will be the ringtone that will greet you. Yes, I am now a ringtone.

It's different when you're calling your female friend and all of a sudden Borgy Manotoc—or at least his voice—picks up. Or when you're calling your boyfriend, Bianca Araneta or Roseanne Prieto picks up. But when you're calling Derek Ramsey and all of a sudden Derek picks up, you start talking to him the same way when you unassumingly speak to an answering machine, and realize it's just a recording. Aah, technology.

One time, I called a friend and was surprised to hear my own voice. "Huh? Tim Yap? But I'm Tim Yap?" was my reply when I heard the voice on the other line. It's the same reaction when people insist that they saw a billboard of me near Ateneo endorsing Hang Ten underwear. But that's not me.

Okay, enough of me. The reason I'm now getting the hang of these new fun technologies is because of my Addict mobile team—they introduced me to this personalized wireless world that keeps me wired.

Right before I started my



Tim
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blog, I hopped over to Smart Superman Jon Jon San Agustin's birthday bash, which was attended by his Smart mates and close friends.

It seems all the people working with Addict are cuties: Tina Montinola has always been one of Manila's most beautiful, Nina Gomez always looks fresh (despite the pressures of deadline) and Ava Esapanola has a killer smile and personality.

On the other side, sceneros Louie Ang and Tom Valderrama are well loved in party circles not just for their looks but also for their brains. Okay, they paid me to say that. Basta, girls, watch out.

I spotted magician Eric Mana doing card tricks on the other table. Nina asked me if I wanted to get hypnotized. "Text Addict to 286," was my curt reply. And she did.

Miss Good Earth

The next week I found myself savoring the company of Poveda girls and the guys who loved them. I hopped to the opening of Good Earth Resto owned by my one of my favorite girls, Ana Martha Moreno, and her Poveda buddies.

I used to go to Good Earth a lot when it was in Greenhills. Its Magallanes branch is a legend. Cathy Teves and crew were responsible for making the Greenbelt spot a hit. Now, Good Earth is in Ortigas, thank God!

I feel guilty not exploring Ortigas areas considering I live there. The new Metro Walk area where Good Earth (plus other hip, new restos) is located is very refreshingly relaxed. So relaxed was I that I found myself chilung out while amusingly listening to Patty Cojuangco and Tanya Moreno (another one of

How I jazzed up my weekend

From page D1

company hates me, but the accidents weren't my fault, I promise!).

So when the peeps at Honda offered to loan me their newest car for seven days, I mustered enough courage to get behind the wheel of a new car and prayed to God it would be an accident-free week.

The Honda Jazz was delivered to my place, in all its satin-silver, automatic glory. Since my only requirements for a good car is smooth driving and comfortable seats, I enlisted the aid of Drip and Morse musician Ian Magbanua, who's probably the only car-obsessed person I know (he got to drive a Ferrari in Italy, for crying out loud).

We took the Jazz for a spin around the metro, me trying it out for day driving and

him at night. Our verdict? We're both madly in love with it. So in love, I wanted to sleep in it the night before it was picked up. Here's why you should beg your parents for one this Christmas (hey, it's never too early):

Maui's points

Why I love it

Lightness and steering. I drive a '94 manual sedan, and I cannot parallel park to save the world. While I generally hate automatic cars (I tend to hit the brakes about an inch away from the car in front of me), the Jazz was impressively light and easy to maneuver. For once, I didn't feel like I was hauling a cart full of bricks (that's an exaggeration, but you get my point).

It was so easy to steer, there is absolutely no reason why you can't stick to one line when doing turns. The Anti-lock braking system (ABS) also assists in braking, so you've got more steering control—i.e., you rule the car.

It's a compact but spacious car. I have two dogs that I take on trips with me, so space is really important for me. While the Jazz may look like a tiny car from outside, it's really very spacious inside. The seats can be folded forward to maximize trunk space, and even upward to accommodate tall objects.

Continuous Variable Transmission (CVT) with 7-Speed Mode. Sounds kind of foreign, but here's what it is. It's an automatic car, but if you fancy driving in manual mode, hit the "7 Speed" button and it's like you're driving on manual without the hassle of hitting the clutch pedal. Instead, all you have to do is

push a button to shift gears. And no, the car doesn't die if you slow down. The gears automatically shift by themselves.

"Sporty" mode. You can use the "drive" mode, or choose "sporty" mode, which makes you accelerate faster. It's like driving a car out of a video game!

So many compartments. There's no reason why all my CDs should stay on the floor. There are compartments almost everywhere in the car, even in front of the driver's seat, which I used as a foot rest (sorry Honda!)

i-DSI (Dual and Sequential Ignition). Basically, it's environmental friendly because it reduces harmful emissions. That, and amazingly, it doesn't consume that much fuel even when at full speed. Using it for half a day, I hardly consumed 1/4 of gas in the tank.

Why you should think twice about it

No central locking button. This is a really petty preference, but I'm used to pushing a button to lock every door. With this car, you have to unlock and lock your door, and I don't know if I was lent a faulty unit, because sometimes I even had to open the door and lock it for all doors to lock.

The stereo sucks. Again, really petty. But I guess you can buy another stereo when you purchase this baby.

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Steermatic feature. Gives it a more tactile feel. The driver is able to more efficiently use

the powerband as he sees fit, which is useful for weaving in and out of traffic or driving on twisty roads.

- Engine. Just right. Peppy and pulls well.
- Looks good. Chicks dig it, boys like it. Personally though, I'd probably stick to a more aggressive chin spoiler, and a set of Mugen MF8's. And the engine and suspension from the Spoon Fit version wouldn't hurt, either.

And it looks much better than its twin, the Honda City.

- Deserves a 9/10. In the few hours I've driven it, I'd have to give it a nine out of 10. This of course doesn't factor in long-term maintenance costs (check out the level of technology on this car: CVT, dual spark plugs per cylinder) and long-term durability. But my initial impression points to one thing—I want one!

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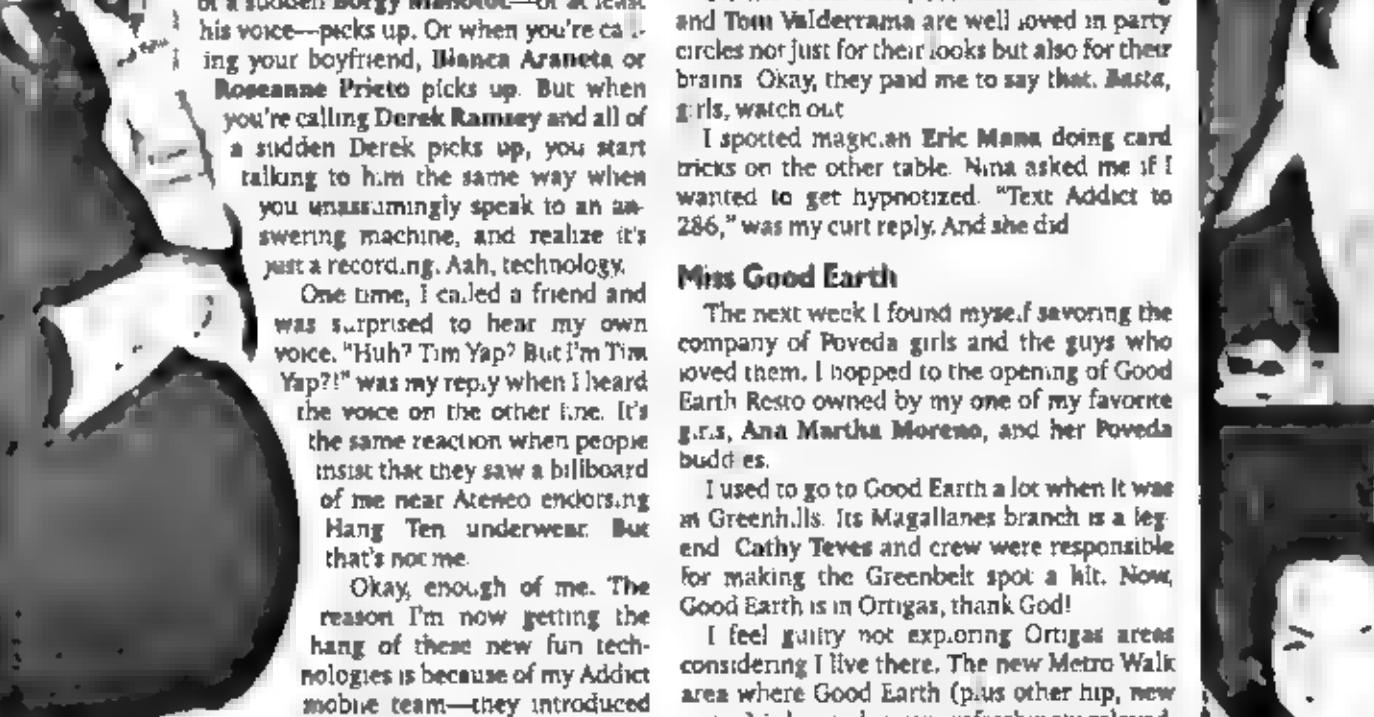
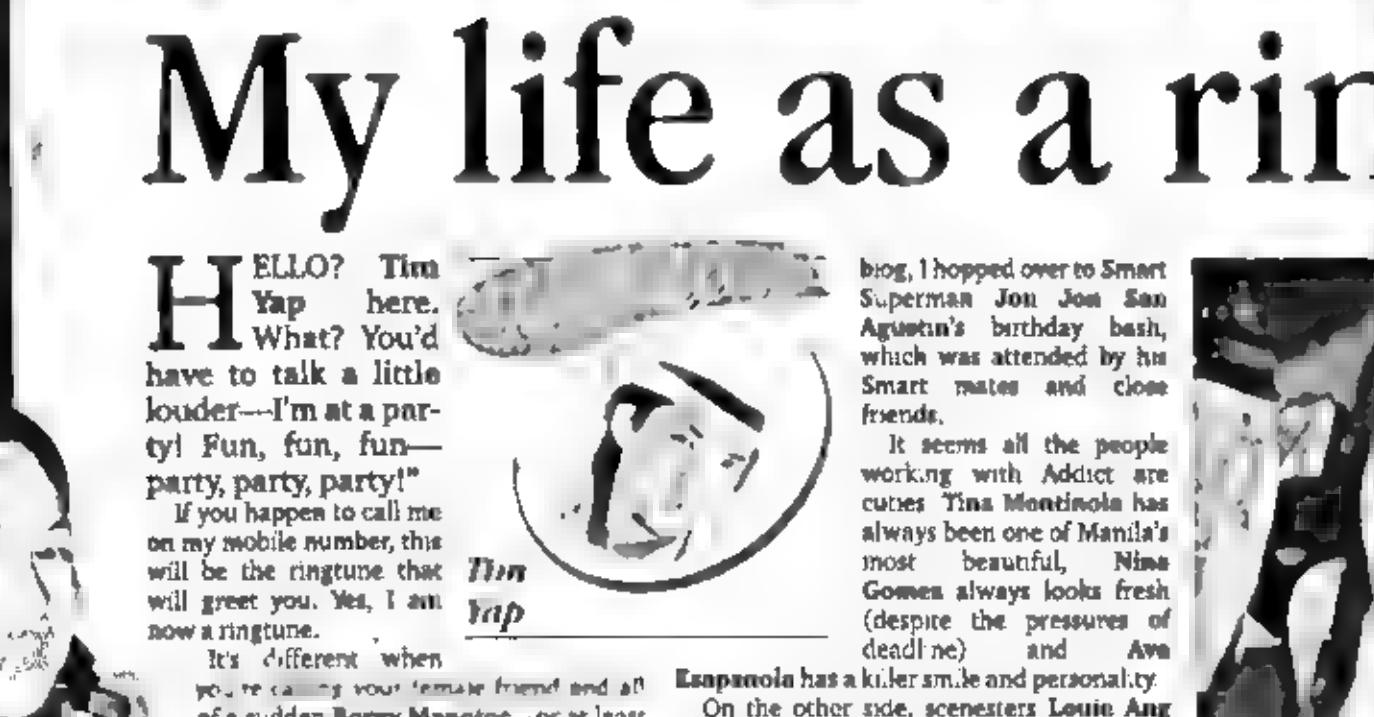
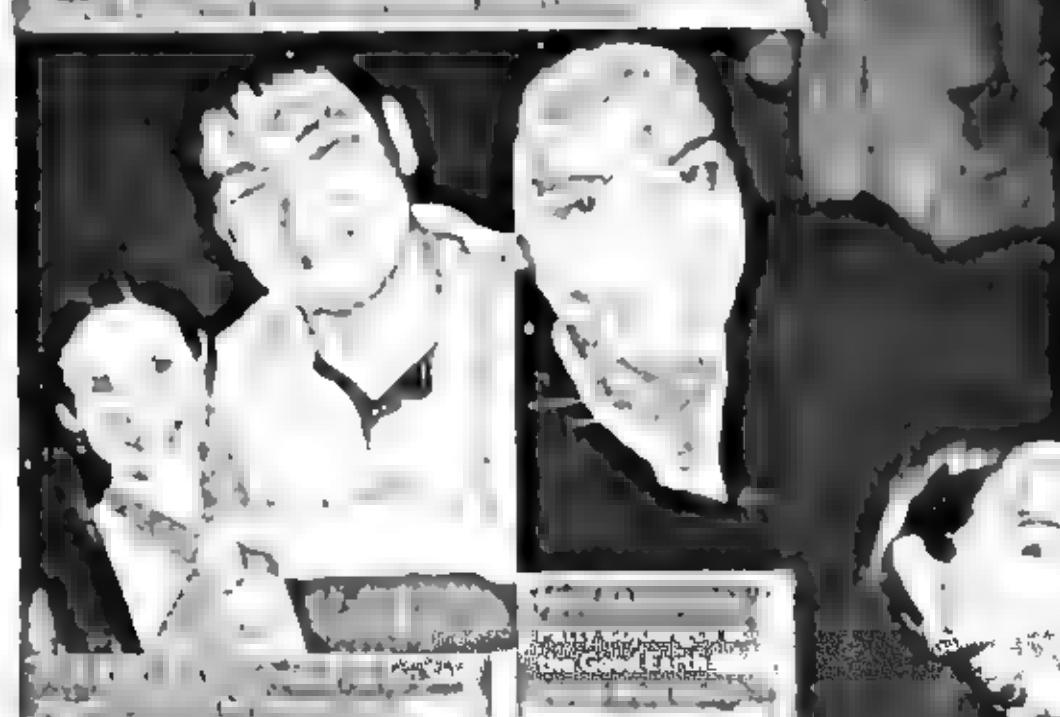
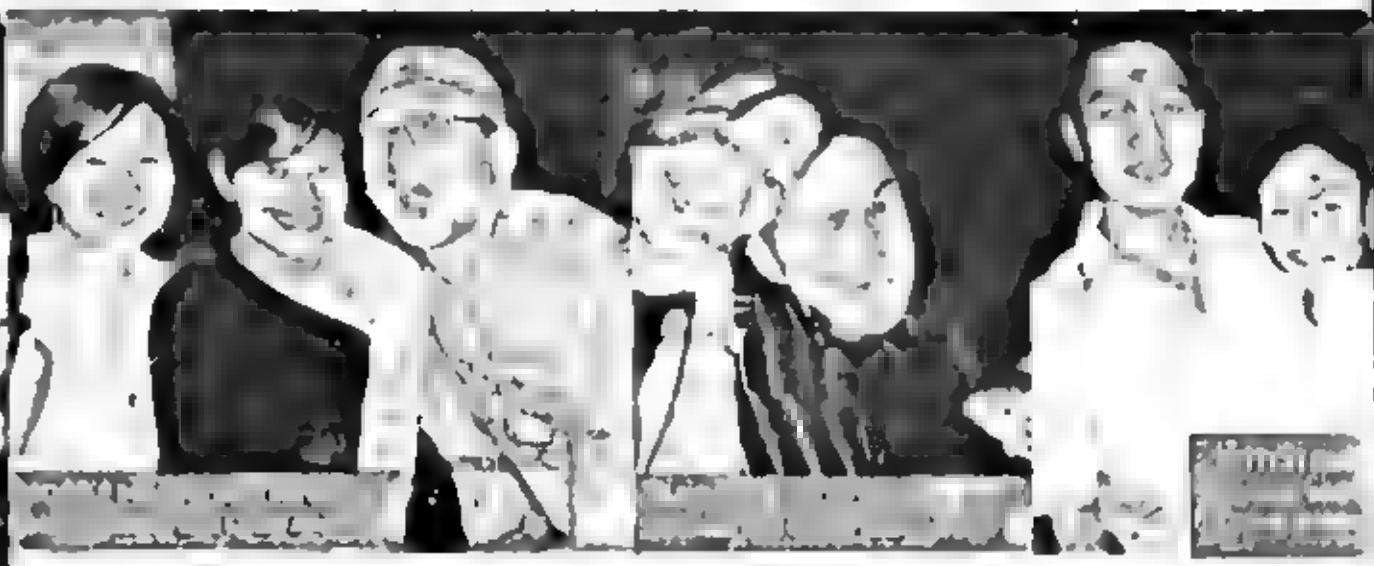
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- The stereo sucks. Stuff like the sound system would be too subjective to null over. Some people find it adequate, while others (like me), will find it needs a bit of upgrading. It's sad to note that the "X" variant only comes with an FM/AM cassette unit. It just isn't in tune with the market the car is aimed at.



HONDA Jazz



My life as a ringtone

HELLO? Tim Yap here. What? You'd have to talk a little louder—I'm at a party! Fun, fun, fun-party, party, party!

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How jazzed up my weekend?

From page D4

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HONDA JAZZ



ngtune

my favorites) talk about their Poveda teachers. Very cute!

The girls started dancing while mouthing "Pa-da-boo-rey, pa-da-boo-rey, keek-ball-change, peevot!"

Private Poveda jokes aside, the food was fab, as only the famous chef Henry could provide. Incidentally, it was his birthday too.

Tanya told me she got scared of the dragon dance before I arrived. I guess she hadn't been to Chinese restaurant openings much. Or to Ongpin during Chinese New Year.

'Ber' month alert

Today, Sept. 15, marks the end of the "month of the ghost" in the Chinese calendar, my astrologer-partyphile friend told me. (Another one told me that it's the end of mercury on retrograde.)

Already, my calendar is getting packed with events—"Ber" months.

Just this week alone, the style set is fully booked. Tonight, Mega will unveil its 10 Most Stylish Women—it's a list that ranges from charity queens to shopping queens to cocktail queens—all queens! So if you feel like one, head over to Mati and look for editor in chief and perennially best dressed Liza Ilarde, and ask her to put you in her next year's list!

Tomorrow, Rustan's Home Ware division is hosting seven parties in one floor! Well, okay—seven home settings in one floor. It'll be like house-hopping, from Victorian Parlour to Polynesian lounge, what a trip!

After, I'll surely hop to the Vera Wang show styled by Jenni Epperson for American Express. I'm sure Ricco and Tina Ocampo will do everything to make this event a mix of fun and fab.

This Saturday Super! weekend, prepare for a dance-off with G Tongi and Freeway at SM Megamall. Think "Zoolander," dance version. The best dancers from different universities were chosen for this dance encounter with Giselle and the Hotlegs. Yup, she's back in town and oh-so ready to groove.

The invite for this Friday night's launch of the MTV Credit Card at Temple Bar by Equitable Visa reads, "You are invited to a very special party." When you open it, it says, philosophically, "Life is a party—and you are the VIP." Now, how's that for empowerment?

Fun, fun, fun—party, party, party!

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SUN
CELLULAR

Everything Important is Under the Sun

LIFESTYLE**Bright young sparkler**

By Alison W. Lopez

23-year-old Ciara Marasigan has parlayed her deft hands and creative juices into a lustrous jewelry-making venture



PERFECT accent. Brooch made of Mother of Pearl leaves, Keisei and freshwater pearls and clear glass crystals embedded on stainless steel wire

SHE bleeds for her art, but she doesn't mind at all. In fact, she sees herself doing this for the rest of her life.

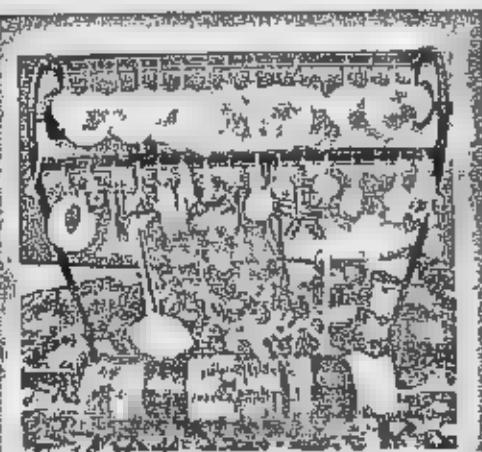
"I literally bleed for my pieces because of the wires," says 23-year-old Ciara Marasigan, who combines harsh metal with delicate semi-precious stones to come up with stunning works of art.

And she does these with her own hands

BRIGHT/E2



THE ARTIST, Ciara Marasigan, models her creation. A twisted cuff made of unpolished and faceted amethyst, ruby and violet glass crystals embedded on aluminum and stainless steel wire



ACCESSORIES from Bangkok

2BU! FASHION FREAKS

2BU! fashion freaks addicts, 2BU! 2BU!

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

THIS is really turning into bazaar country.

And we love it.

The Fashion Freaks raided The Ortigas Bazaar Center's Outdoor Bazaar last weekend and we found a treasure trove, thanks to Lolita's Liza Puti-an.

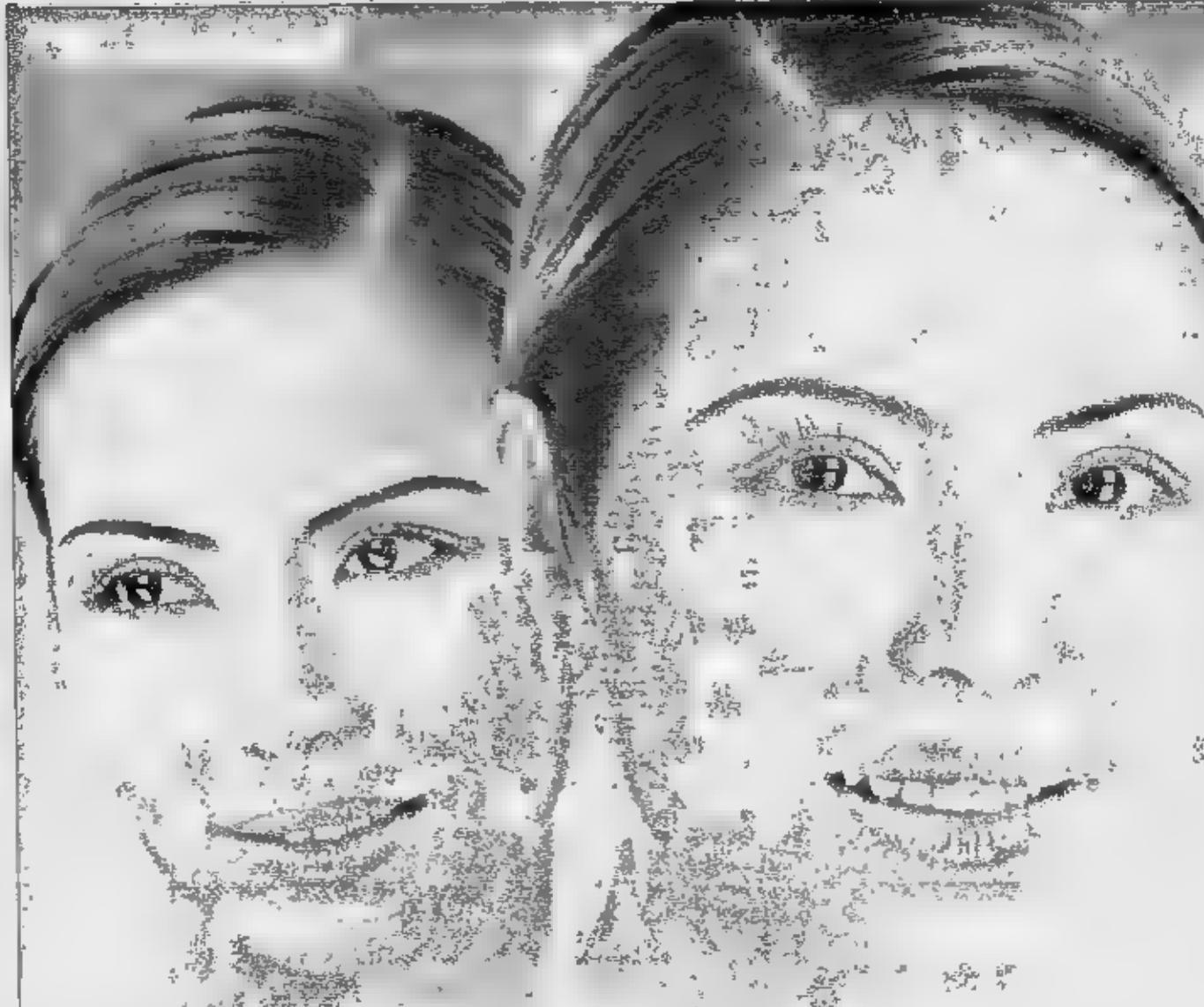
Liza travels regularly to Bangkok and brings home goodies that she knows would cater to the Filipino taste.

We found embellished chopsticks, hobo bags, colorful pants, wacky shirts, fab earrings, crazy bangles and psychedelic flip flops.

And that's just in one booth.

We're definitely coming back for more.

You may contact Liza Puti-an at
BAZAAR/E2



No matter how old you are, your age doesn't have to show on your face. You can always delight in your clear, flawless skin, as beautiful as when you were a lot younger.

Facial Care Centre's IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish your freckles, age spots, sunspots and spider veins without a trace. It is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that can treat your entire face and neck, rejuvenating your skin and giving it a clearer, more youthful look. Without the sunburn-like appearance and long recovery period, you'll certainly be amazed at the beautiful result!

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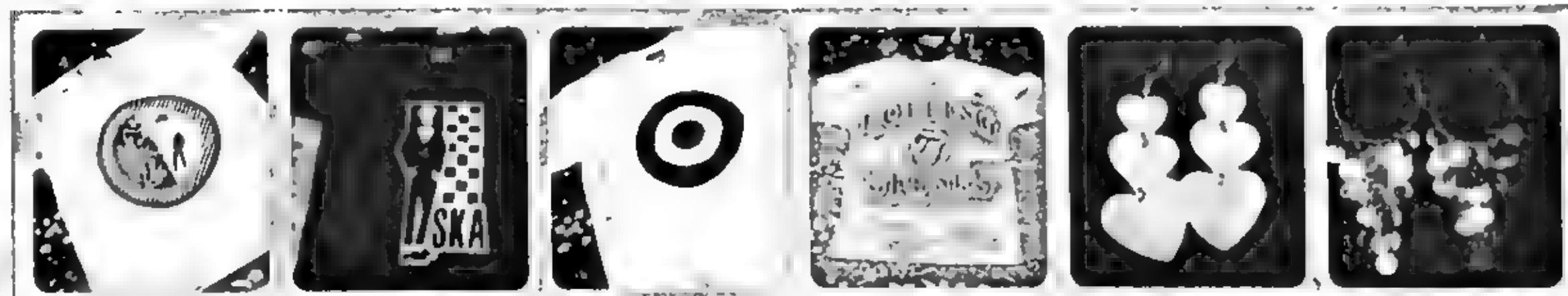
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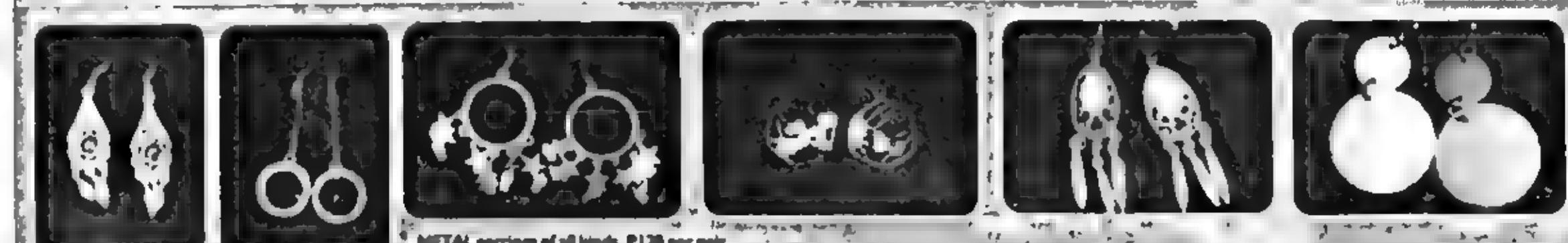
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only McDonald's delivers.**



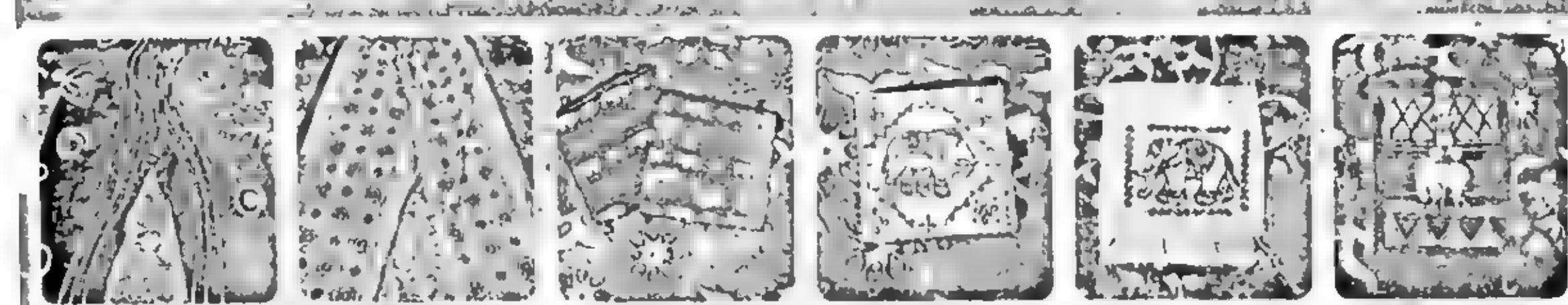


YOU CAN never have too many shirts. P150 each

THESE dangling will light your face up. Earrings, P120 per pair



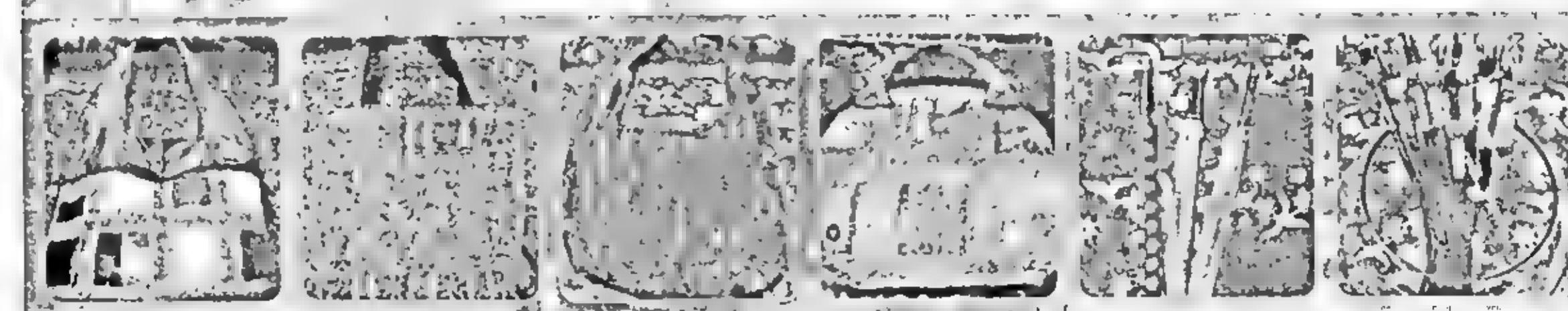
METAL earrings of all kinds, P120 per pair



BESTSELLERS. These cropped pants go for P350.

PRETTY PURSES, P140 each

SMALL bags, P150



CARRY around your essentials in these lovely bags. P350 each

PLAIN chopsticks with holder, P70 per pair

EMBELLISHED chopsticks, P150 each



TWISTED cuff made of cherry quartz, cat's eye, aquamarine and moonstone embedded in stainless steel and aluminum wire



PAIR of earrings made of aquamarine, Indian Red Swarovski crystals, freshwater pearls and moonstone embedded in stainless steel wire

Bright young

From page E1

and a pair of pliers. The results are unique creations that exude romance and femininity, the signature style of Ciara Creates.

Serendipitous start

Ciara Creates began serendipitously two years ago when Ciara began toying with her grandma's jewelry to shake off stress and pressure. She was then studying for a macroeconomics exam, and her hands were itching for something to hold.

They found their way to her loa's necklaces made of gemstones and crystals on nylon thread. She had a flash of inspiration, whipped out a pair of pliers, and went to work creating her own necklace.

The next day, her classmates asked her where she got her pendant, and were delighted to find out she created it. The young lady was on her way. Ciara began making pieces for her friends for free, until she realized she could make a venture out of it.

Thus her small business was born, "thanks to my macro professor," says the University of Asia and Pacific management graduate, who is featured in this month's Entrepreneur magazine.

Now, Ciara Creates has a line of pendants, cuffs, rings, earrings, brooches, pameas, bars—an impressive booty for someone who did not take formal lessons in jewelry-making.

Her creations are priced from P500 (a small pendant or a pair of earrings) to P3,000. Some are flirty and playful, others are for the mature set, but to Ciara, every piece she makes is a work of art.



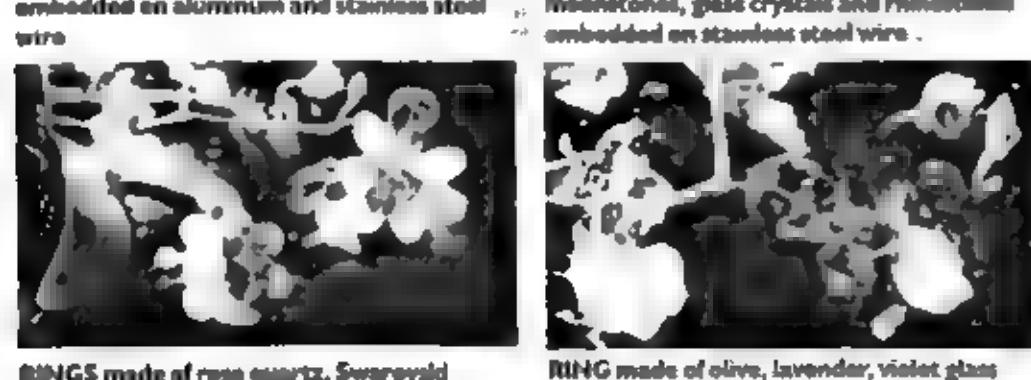
CRAB cuff made of freshwater pearls, jades, emerald glass crystals and a moonstone embedded in aluminum and stainless steel wire



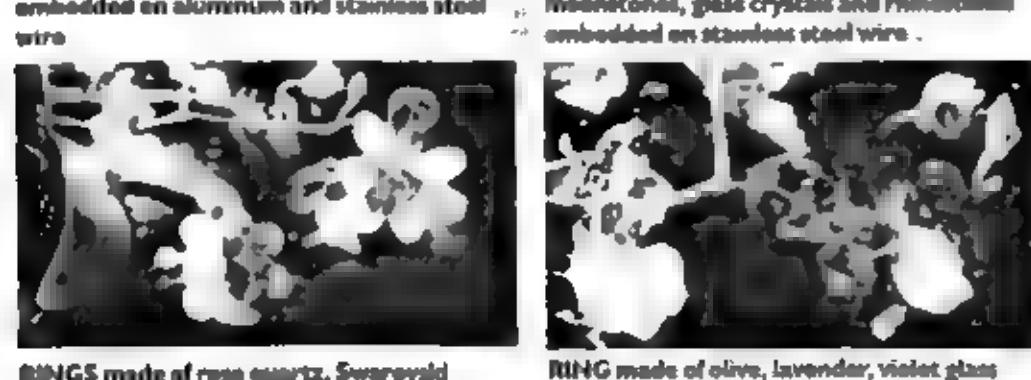
PAIR of pinches made of freshwater pearls, moonstones, glass crystals and rhinestones embedded in stainless steel wire



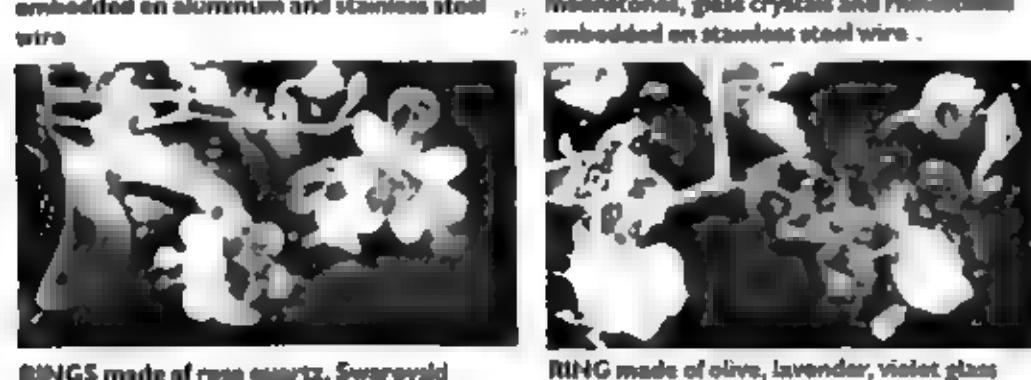
PAIR of push and pull earrings made of ruby, olive and purple glass crystals and faceted amethysts embedded in stainless steel wire



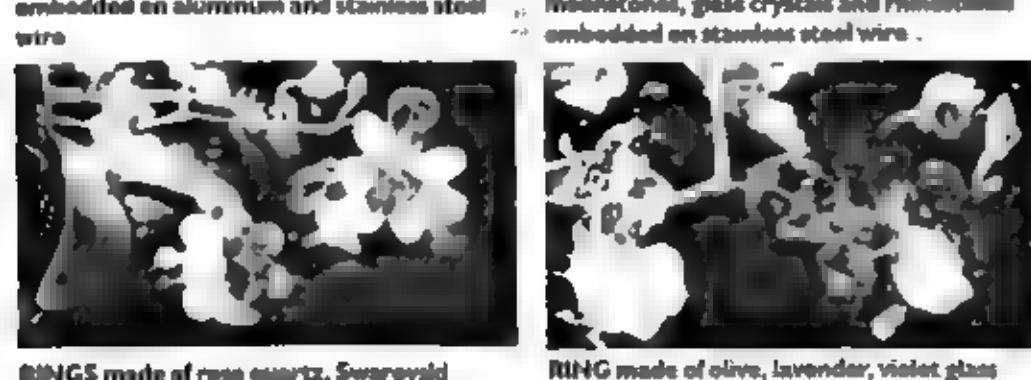
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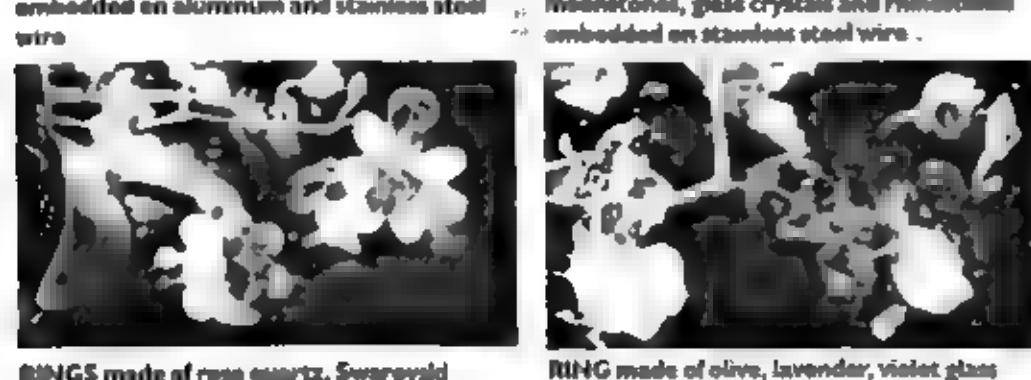
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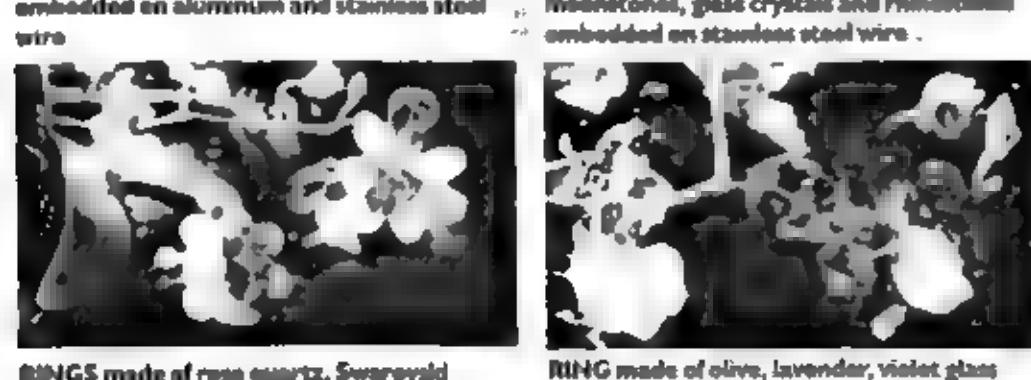
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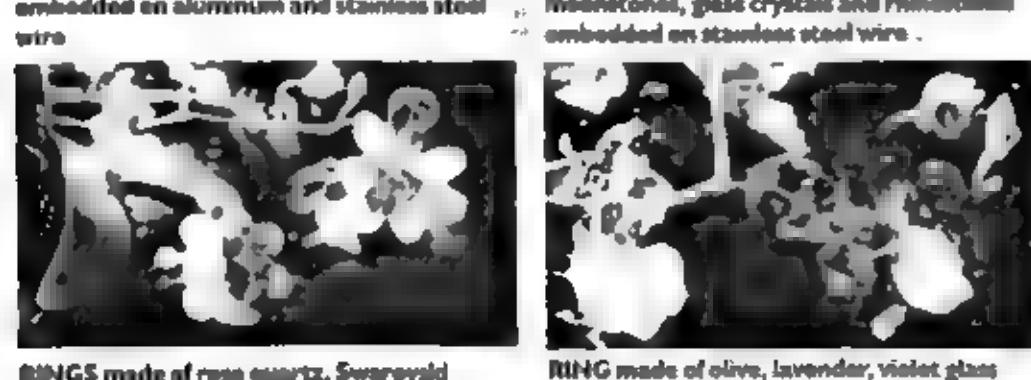
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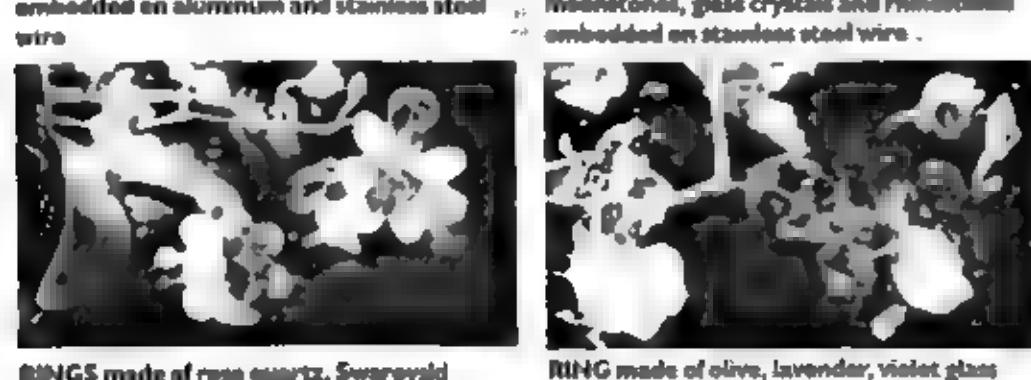
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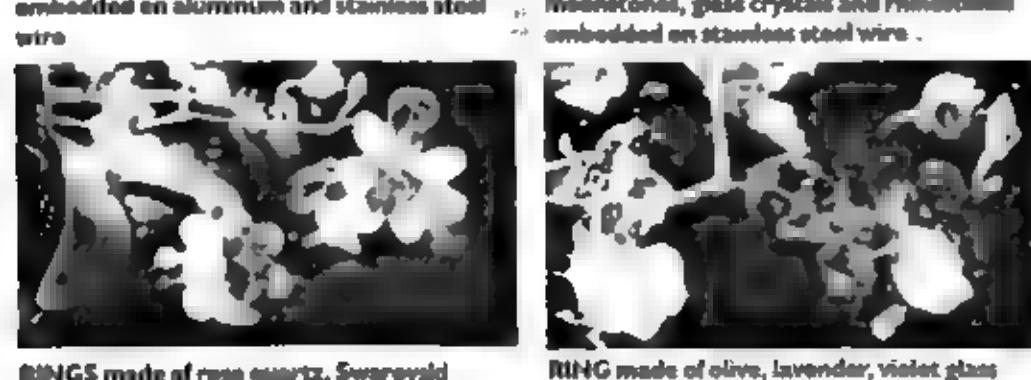
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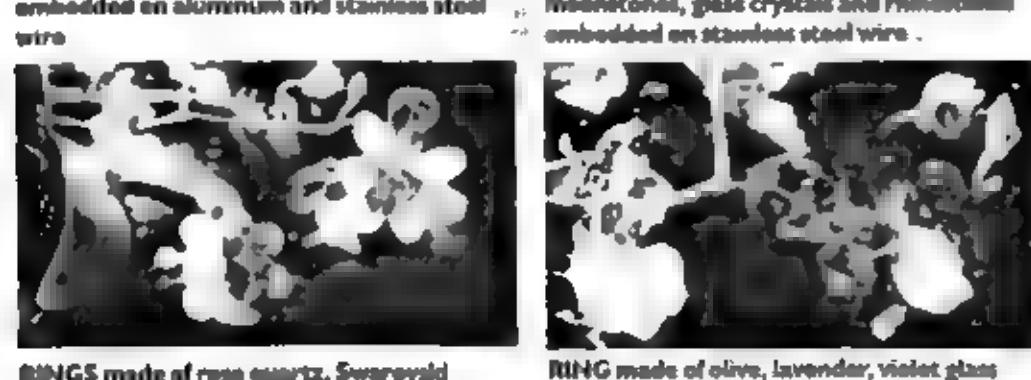
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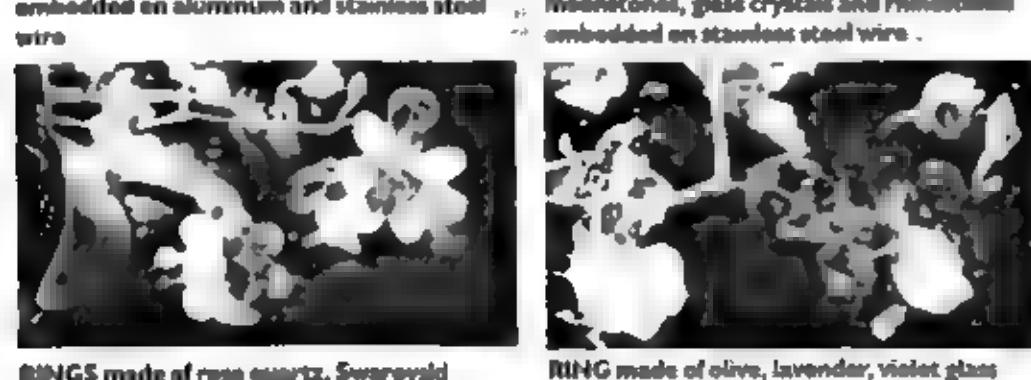
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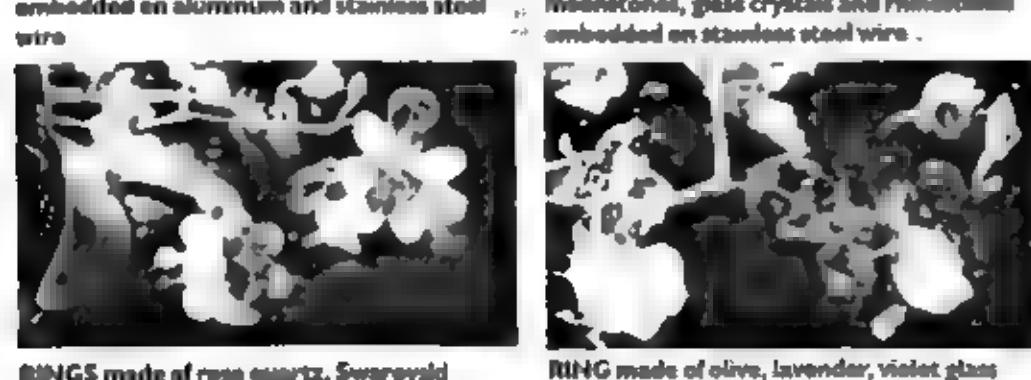
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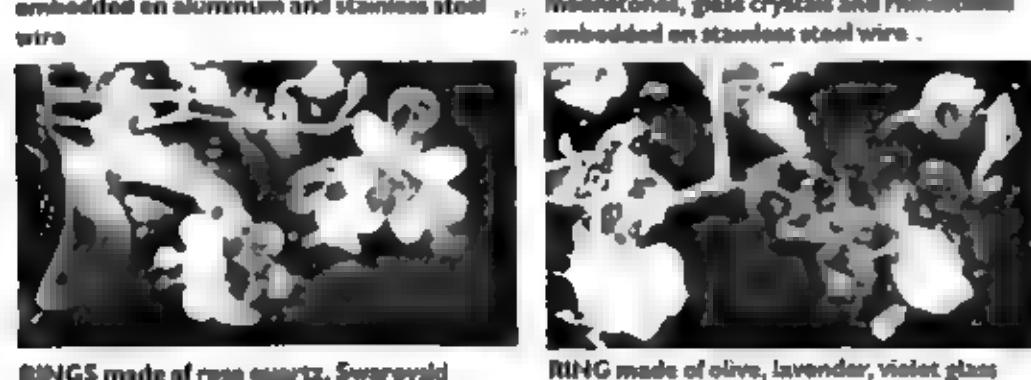
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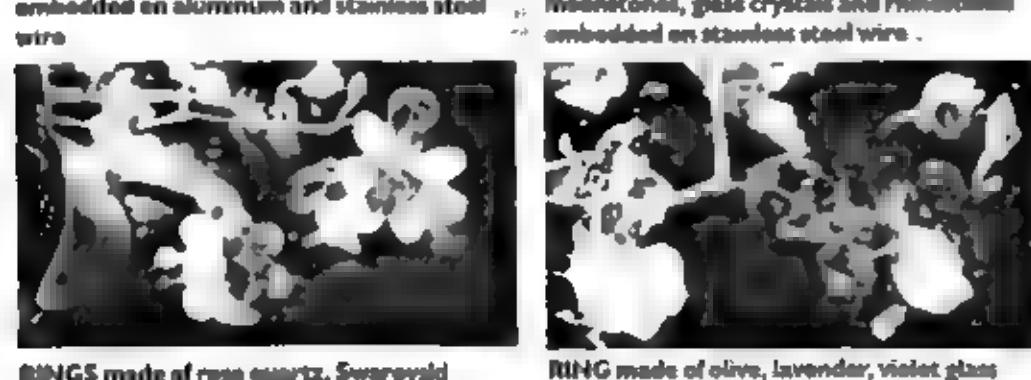
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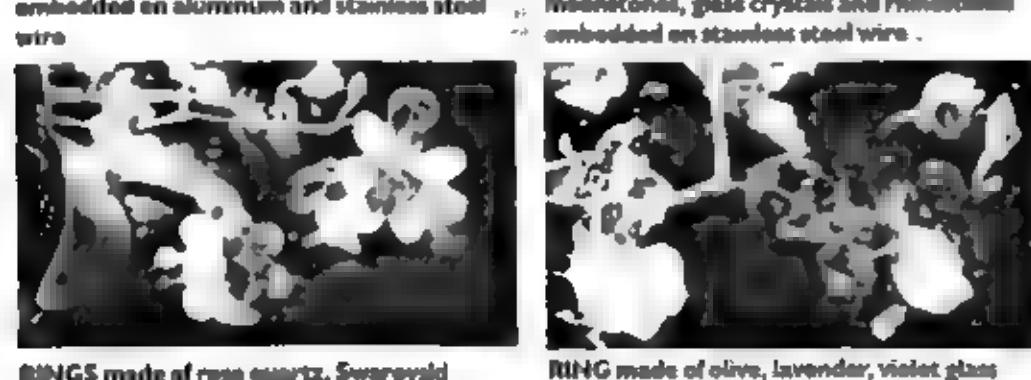
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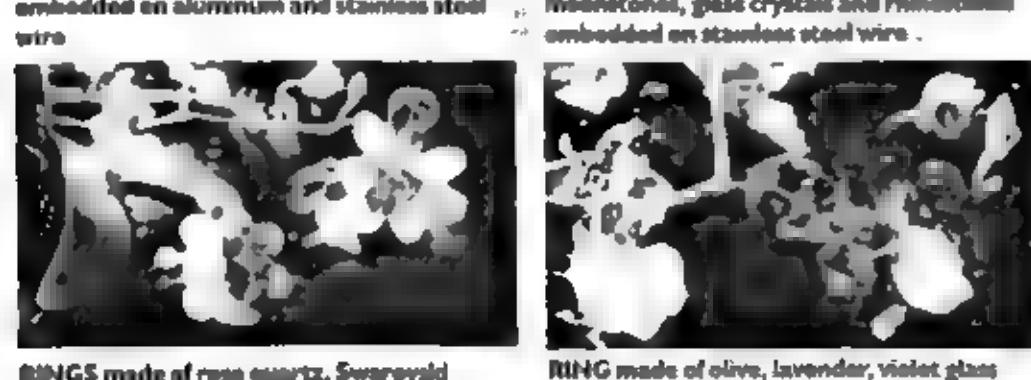
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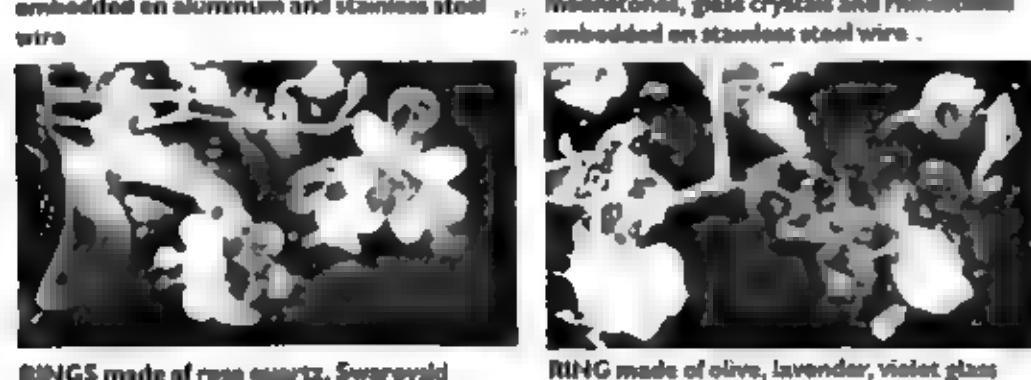
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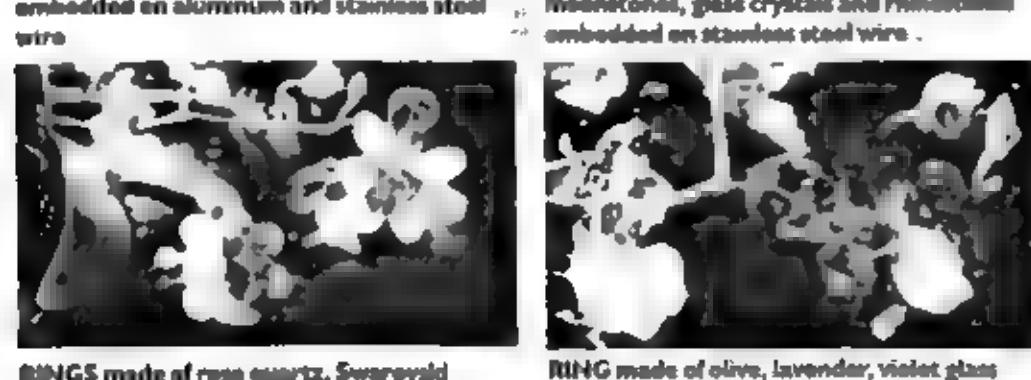
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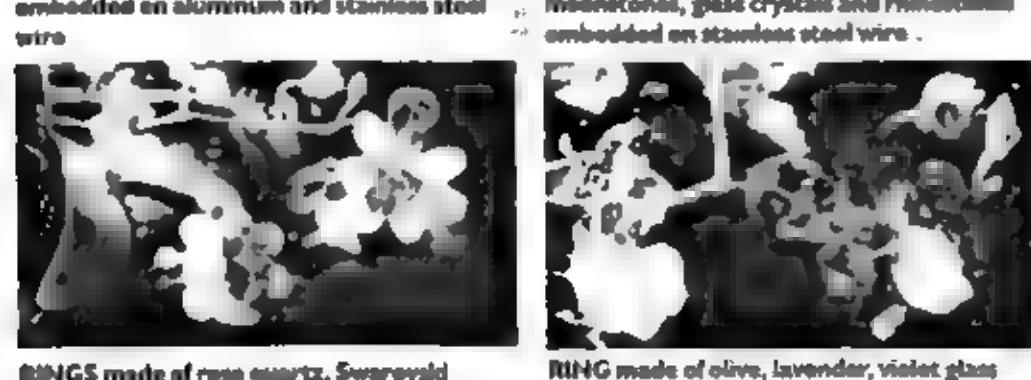
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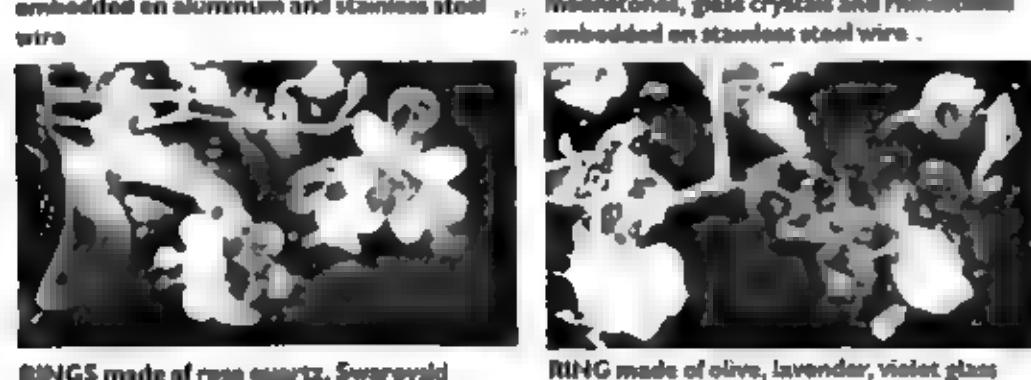
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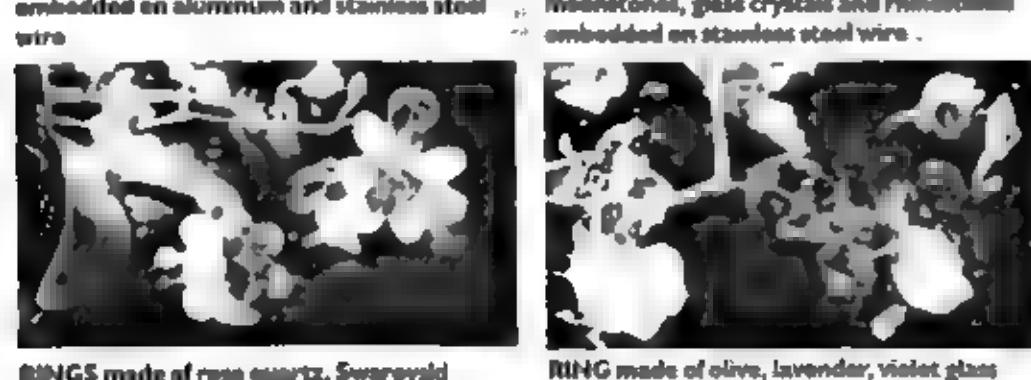
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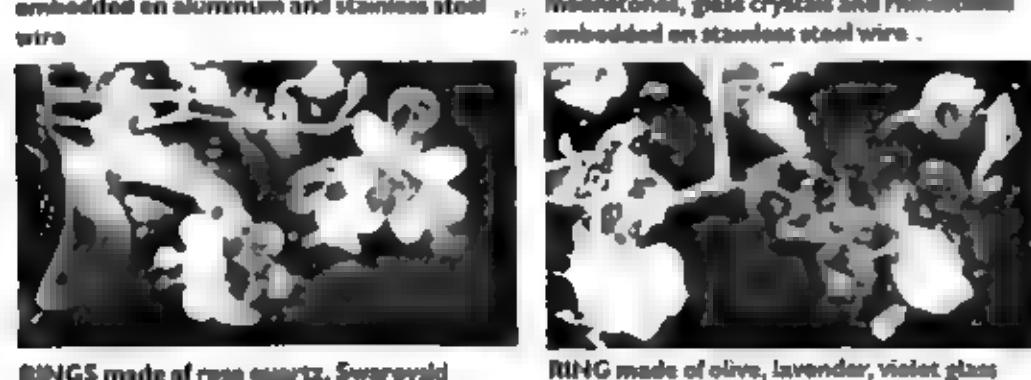
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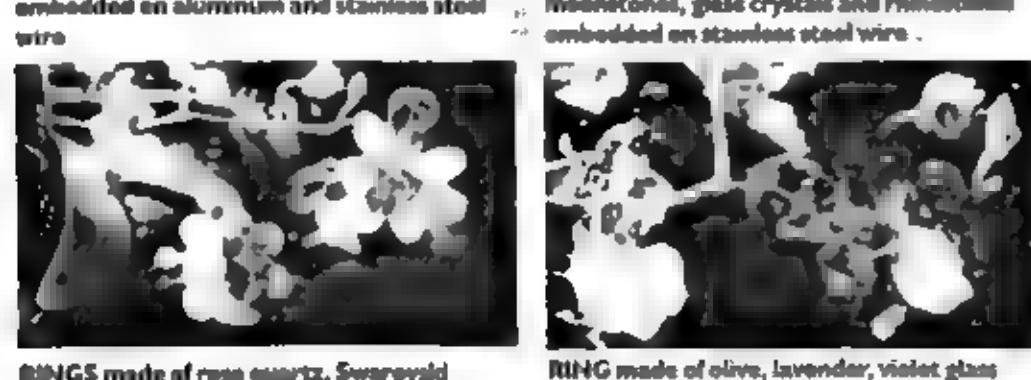
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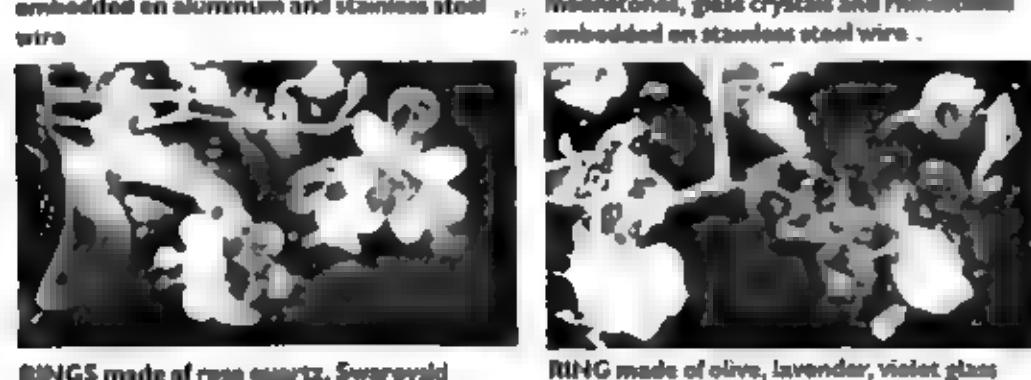
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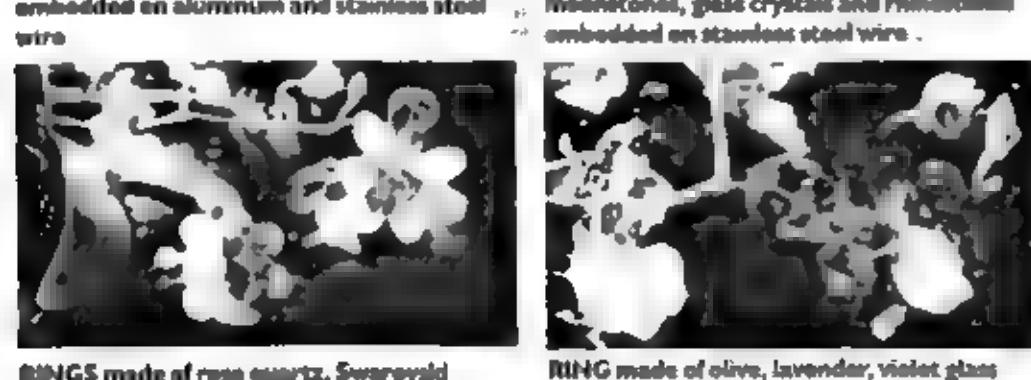
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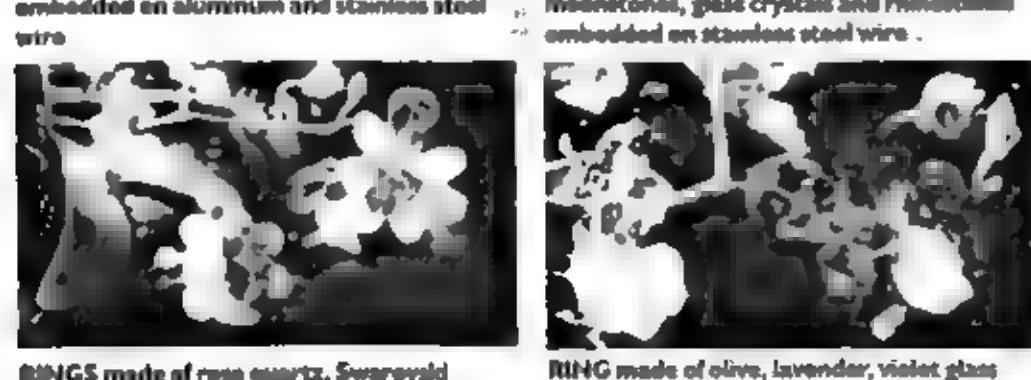
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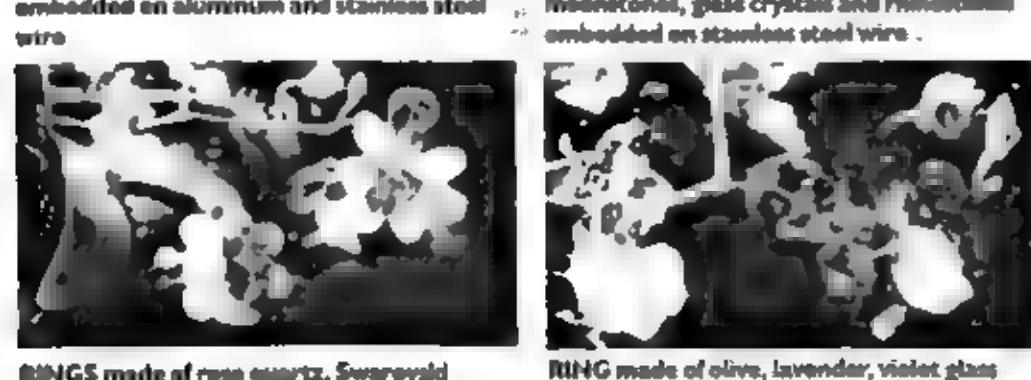
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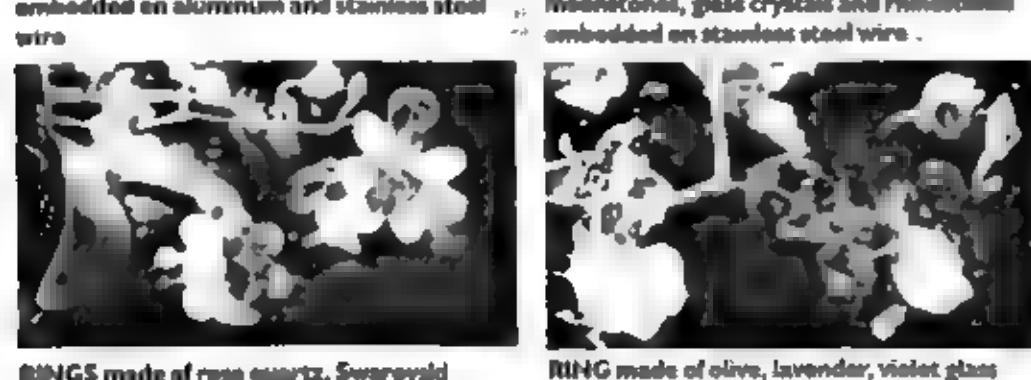
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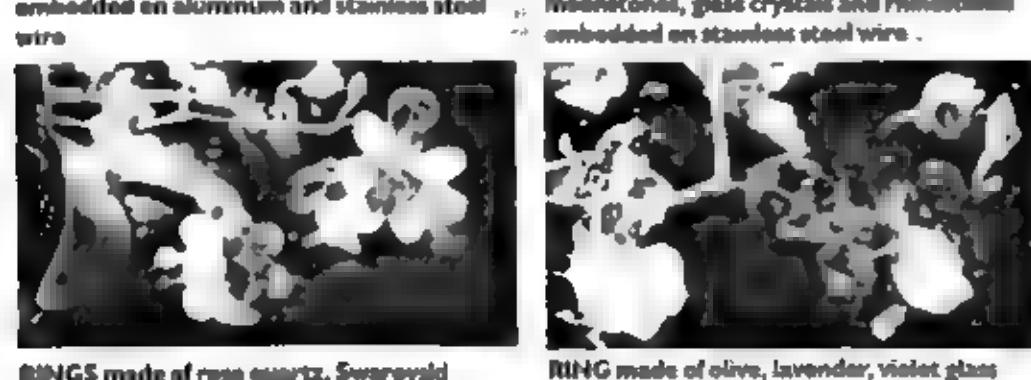
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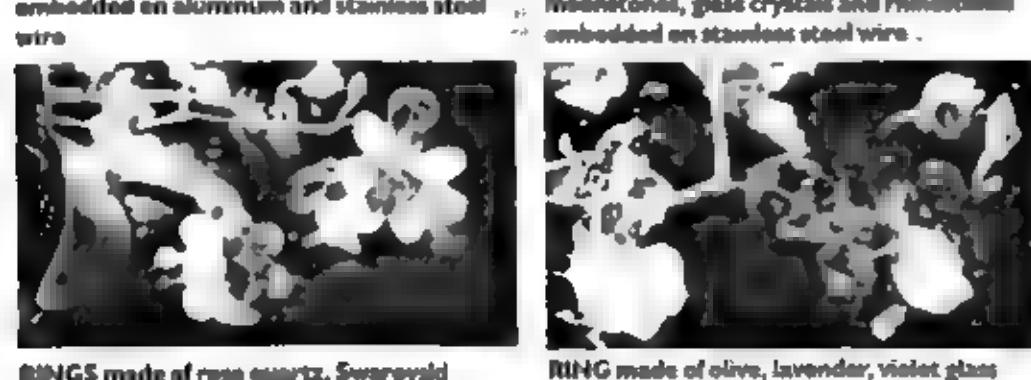
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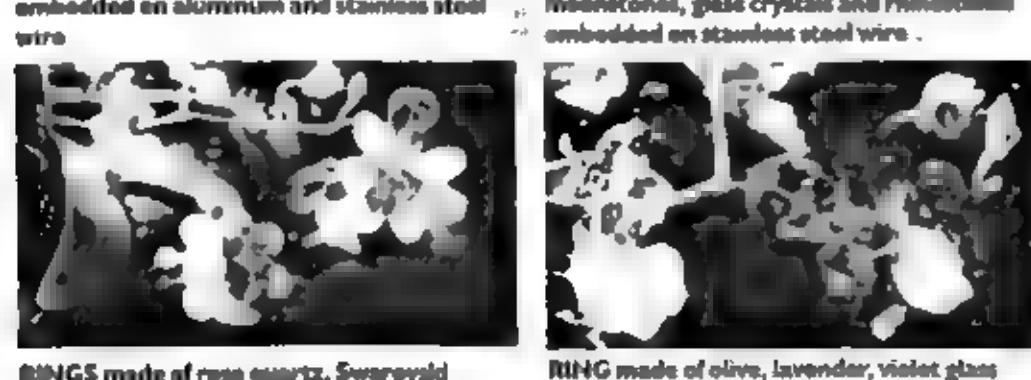
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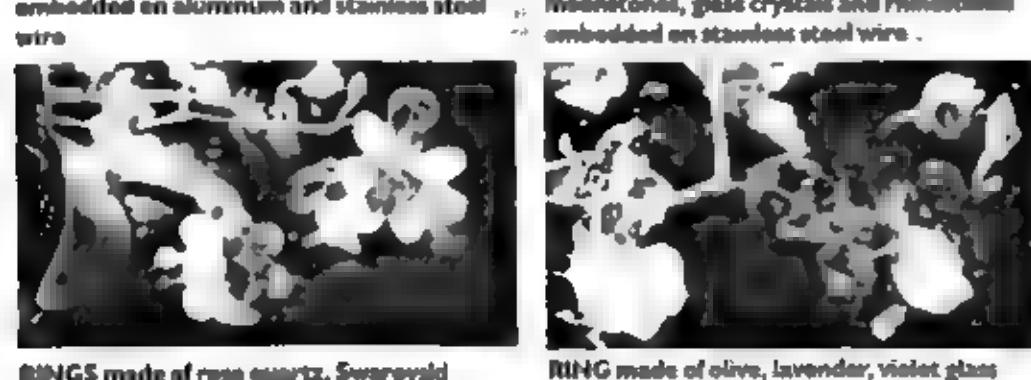
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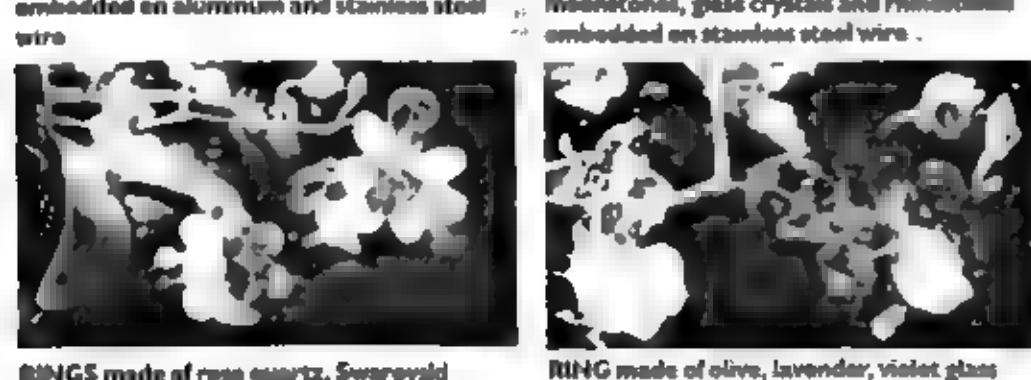
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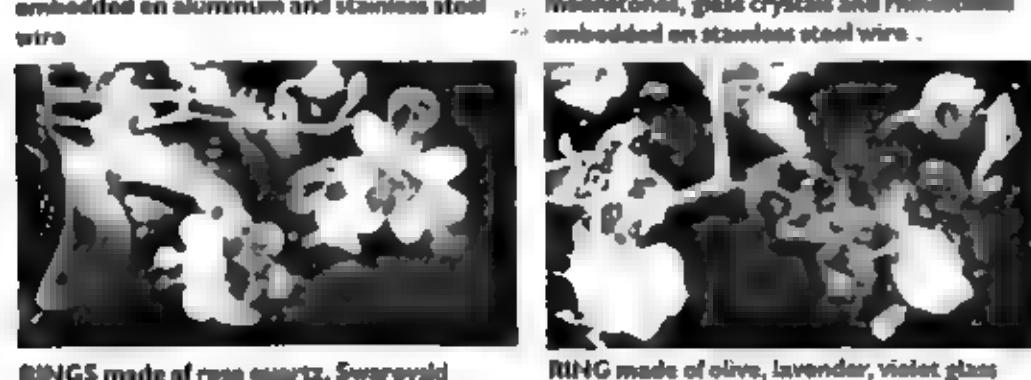
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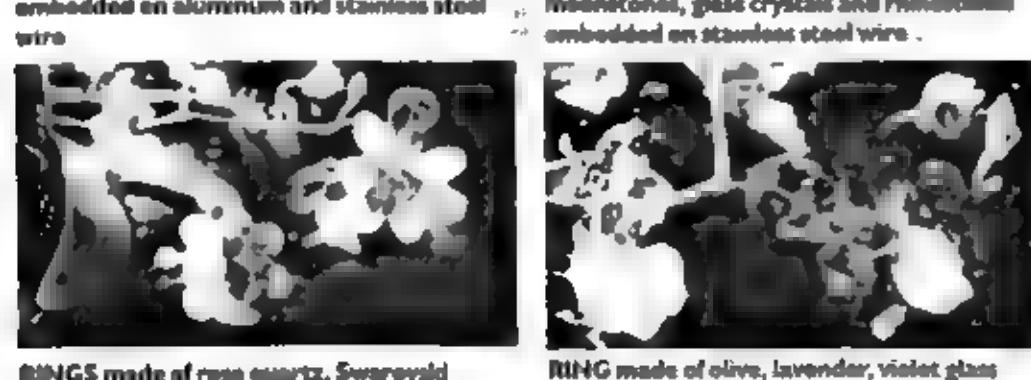
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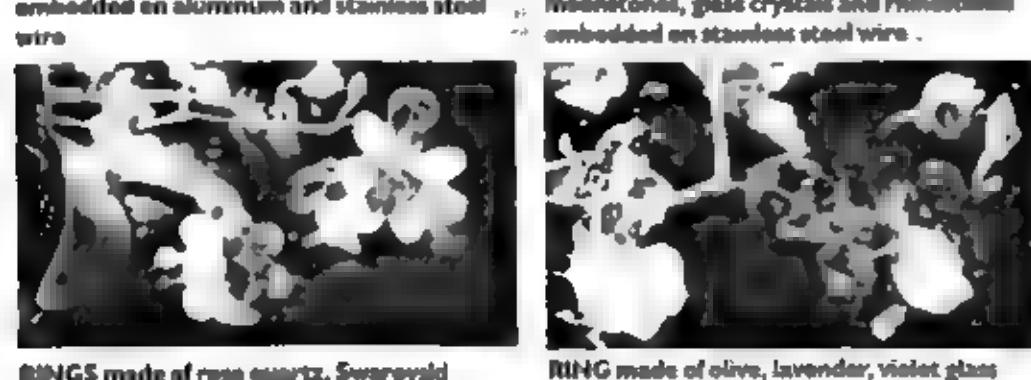
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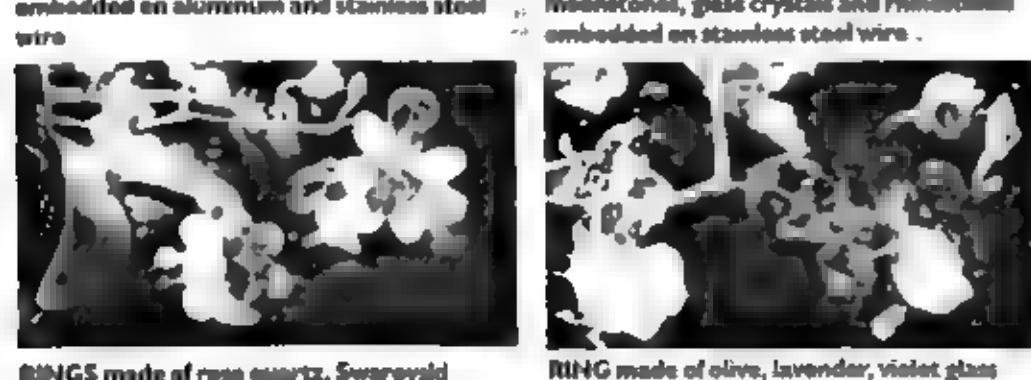
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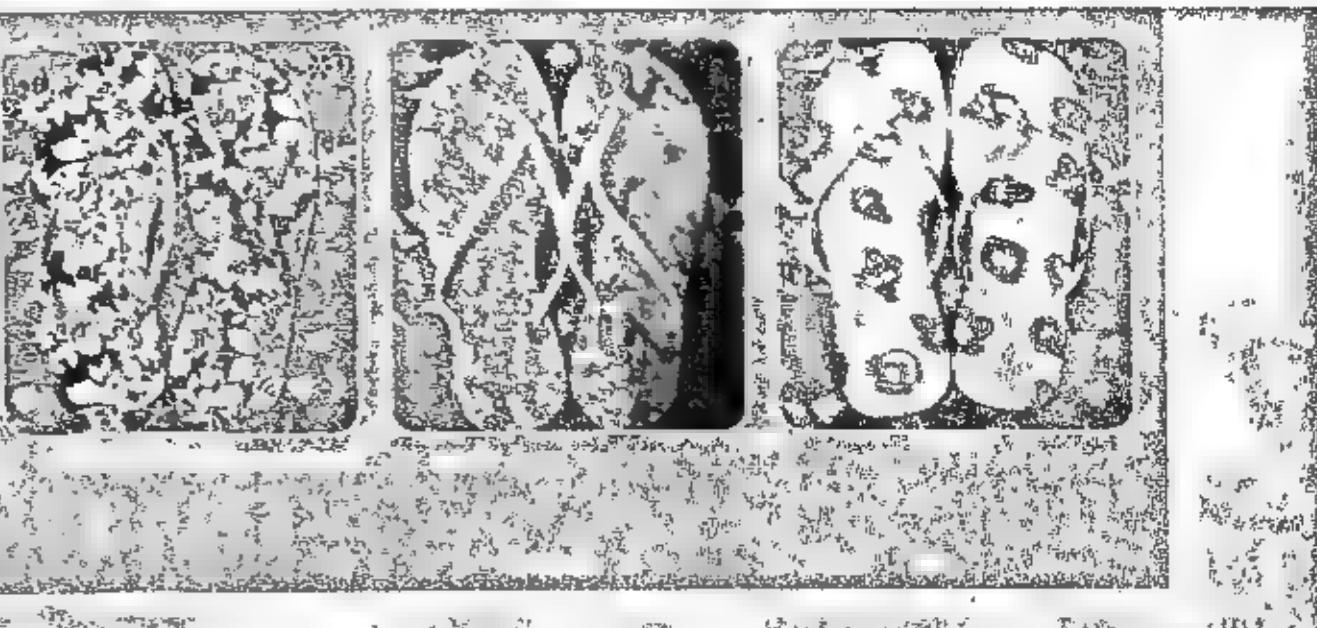
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PAIR of earrings made of pearl and glass crystals and Swarovski accents



P150 per pair



Bazaar addicts, *hi!*

From page E1

09189218927 or 9292238 or visit her store at 10 Maamo St., Sikatuna Village, QC on Sundays.

The Outdoor Bazaar, which serves as a countdown to the opening of the Ortigas Bazaar Center, is open all Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays of September, from 5 p.m. onwards at the Ortigas Town Center along Julia Vargas Avenue, across the gate of Valle Verde 3.

DO YOU WANT THE FASHION FREAKS TO VISIT YOUR STORE OR CHECK OUT YOUR WARES? E-MAIL US AT THEFASHIONFREAKS@YAHOO.COM



CRAZY bangles, P90 each

PANTS of all colors, P350

PRINCESS. Superb Liza Putian travels to Bangkok regularly for more finds.



sparkler



DANT made of freshwater pearls, glassals and Mother of Pearl leaves with a Swarovski accent embedded on stainless wire

prefer to call them functional pieces of art you can wear," she says, disliking term "accessories." She can understand her aversion to the given the uniqueness of each item. Ciara does not mass-produce. There are no hes, no actual designs for each piece. merely lets her fingers work with the wire intimacy of her bedroom. en now when she has an apprentice, ie, Ciara makes it a point to personally et each piece. Together, they can make eces a day.

Jewelry stones

us wire artist is only too glad to help us choose the stones to use for their jewlery. She believes crystals emit energies that tribute to an individual's sense of inner e and balance, but says she experiments with color combinations and their cut. scours Thailand and China for her s, since local ones tend to be inconsistent ality. dered pieces require three days' lead. Ciara Creates is busiest during the mas season, not only because its gerns the perfect gifts to loved ones. It can al-

so make a lovely present to one's self and is best worn during Christmas parties.

It certainly helps that Ciara herself wears her pieces to functions. She has set her eyes on the young market for her creations, and she has noticed that more and more coleguas are getting attracted to her ultra-feminine creations.

A corner stall in Greenbelt 3 is a dream of hers, but right now, she's quite happy being sought out at her home in Santiago Village, Makati City.

"People like it when they feel they've discovered a secret," she says. But as secrets go, this one has leapt boundaries: Ciara's pieces were sold for one season at Lane Crawford in Hong Kong and in a group of boutiques in Los Angeles. All through word-of-mouth.

Ciara collaborates with designers Ruchie Ortega de Souk ("whenever his gowns need some accent") and Rajo Laurel ("we've done several weddings together"). The latter displays her items at his House of Laurel in Makati. Her pieces were also a big hit when she joined the Inquirer Super's Market bazaar in Rockwell.

And with the recent three-month showcase of her pieces in "Palamuti" with Arnei Papa at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Ciara feels happy that her creations are becoming seen as more than just gemstones.

"These are very unique pieces you would want to wear your whole life," she says with much pride.

Contact Ciara Creates at 8994080, 8965450 or 0918-9220795, e-mail artist@ciaracreates.com, or visit the website at www.ciaracreates.com



BROOCH made of rose and cherry quartz, unpolished and faceted amethyst, fuchsia Swarovski crystals and lavender glass crystals on stainless steel wire

PAIR of danglers made of rose quartz and pink Swarovski crystals embedded on stainless steel wire

Island Craze

Twin Sharing: P15,888.00 per person
Rates valid until November 30, 2004.

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SMART

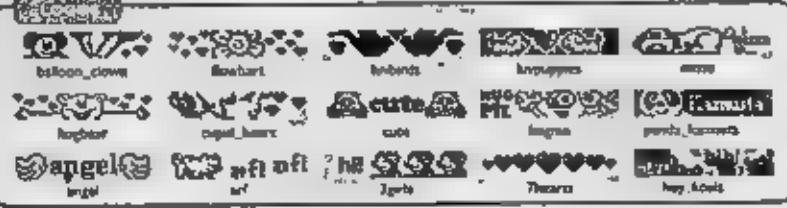
Pasa Load
Greet 'N Load

SEND A SURPRISE!

It's a special greeting with P10 load so your buddy can tell you how much she misses your warm smile! SMART PasaLoad Greet 'N Load is complete — your special greeting will be sent along with an MMS image, pic message, logo or ringtone that fully expresses how you feel.

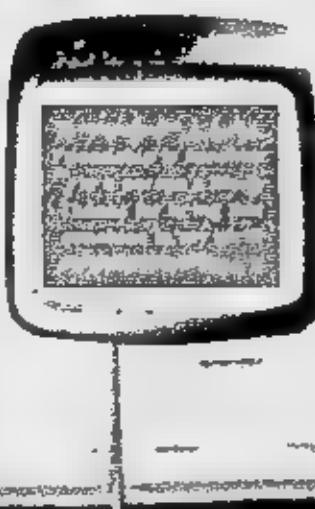
To get info, text
GIFT to 232

1	2	3
Send a surprise message	Send a keyword	Send a 232
Anniversary	ANNIV	
Birthday	BDAY	
Congratulations	CONGRATS	
Happiness	HAPPY	
Hello	HELLO	
Love	LOVE	
Miss You	MISS	
Lonely	SAD	
Sorry	SORRY	



TITLE	MONOTONE KEYWORD	POLYTONE KEYWORD
Ocho Ocho - Pamela's Remix	8pmix012	8pmix012
Kathie Q! Sabihin	sabihin2	sabihin2
This Guy's In Love With You Pare	disgustin02	disgustin02
Kulan Kaya	kulan02	kulan02
Pachayonin	pachayonin2	pachayonin2
Pabigyan ng Huli	pabigyan2	pabigyan2
Pamela	pamela2	pamela2
Pangalip Lang Kaya	pongali02	pongali02
Rainbow	rainbow2	rainbow2
Star Circle Quest Theme	starcircle2	starcircle2
Sund2 Sa Galo	sundusund02	sundusund02
Tanging Iba	tangin02	tangin02

She'll get a special greeting 'n P10 load!



To give Great 'N Load

Type recipient's mobile number or ATM keyword	2	3
Or ATM keyword	Send to 232	232
Or keyword		
Or ATM keyword		

Applicable download and PasaLoad rates apply. Service available to prepaid-to-prepaid users and postpaid-to-prepaid users only.

Prepaid subscribers with new SIM need to load their account first to be able to send PasaLoad Great 'N Load.

For questions, comments or concerns, you may call SMART Hotline at 02-1111, send a text message to BEE (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customerservice@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Webchat Center [here](http://www.smart.com.ph).

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SMART
Simply Amazing!

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It started with the BPI Express Teller Card. Now, Landbank and BDO ATM cardholders can also enjoy the unique convenience of cashless shopping through the Express Payment System (EPS)!

With just a swipe of your ATM card, your purchases are automatically paid through your deposit account and credited to the merchant's account. Now, there's NO NEED TO LINE UP TO WITHDRAW AT THE ATM for your shopping requirements.

Plus NO NEED TO ENROLL because it is a built-in feature of your ATM card. And, there are also NO SERVICE FEES or INTEREST CHARGES. You also get the SALE PRICE EVERY TIME because paying through the EPS IS AS GOOD AS CASH.

EPS is accepted at more than 5,500 stores and 9,000 terminals nationwide! Go EPS shopping at department stores, supermarkets, specialty stores, and many more!

What are you waiting for? Use your BPI Express Teller Card, Landbank and BDO ATM Cards to go EPS shopping today!



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WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

2bU! THERMOMETER

Ah! Life's essentials

"THE TERMINAL." It's a beautiful, beautiful movie. If you haven't seen it, watch it. If you have, watch it again.

ETC CHANNEL. It's great to have good old Conan and Jay back on our tubes once again. Although we're not too keen on "Starting Over," we're loving "The OC," "Will and Grace" and even the "Iron Chef." And we're sure there's also a market for the silly dating shows.

WE are waiting with bated breath for the "The Amazing Race" episodes shot in the Philippines. And the waiting is almost over. The first one will air tonight. Bring on the popcorn, it's gonna be an interesting show.

CLICK the City on GPRS. It's time for a confession. We have gotten way too dependent on this GPRS site. We check it for movie schedules, for phone numbers of restaurants, for locations of our favorite stores. Click the City, congratulations. You have become an essential.

HAVAIANAS. Beads bring new life to the flip flops we love. Visit Aura Athletica and Tabu to get yourself a pair (or a dozen). Your tootsies will be grateful.

'TIZERS. If appetizers are your favorite part of the meal, you're gonna love 'Tizers at Eastwood Mall's cinemas. Their buffalo wings are a must-try.

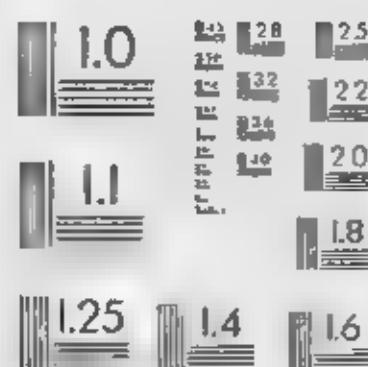
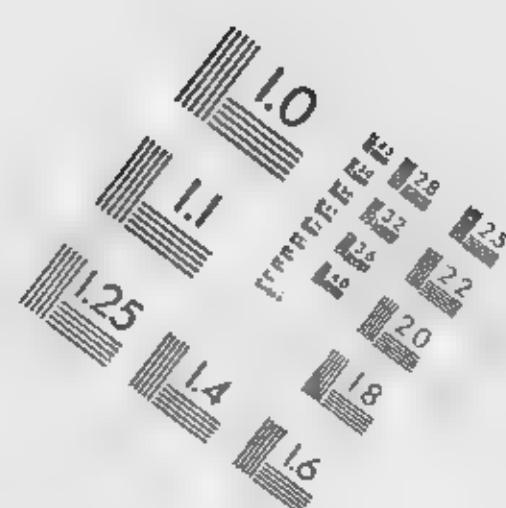
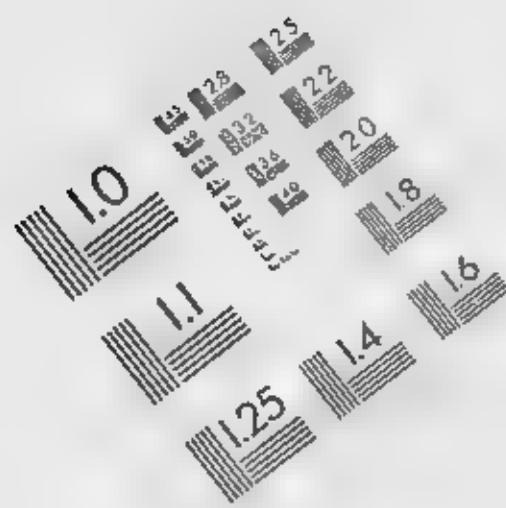
FLASH THE PLASTIC. MTV's new credit card will be launched on Friday at Temple Bar. This credit card will also serve as your ticket to discounts, freebies and exclusive invites to exciting events. If you want your own card, drop by any Equitable PCI Bank branch or check out the mall tour in the coming weeks.

SENATORS IN SITCOMS. Don't you have better things to do?

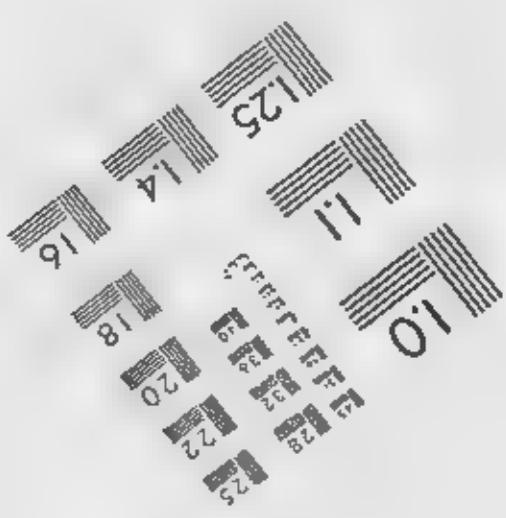
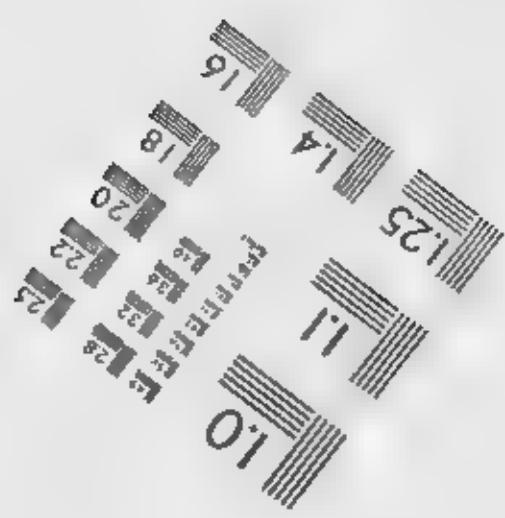
FISCAL CRISIS. And people still wonder why so many are desperate to find better lives elsewhere!

ACTS OF TERRORISM. The car bomb in Jakarta, the plane crashes in Russia, the school siege in Beslan. When will the violence stop? We just want peace.

**IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**

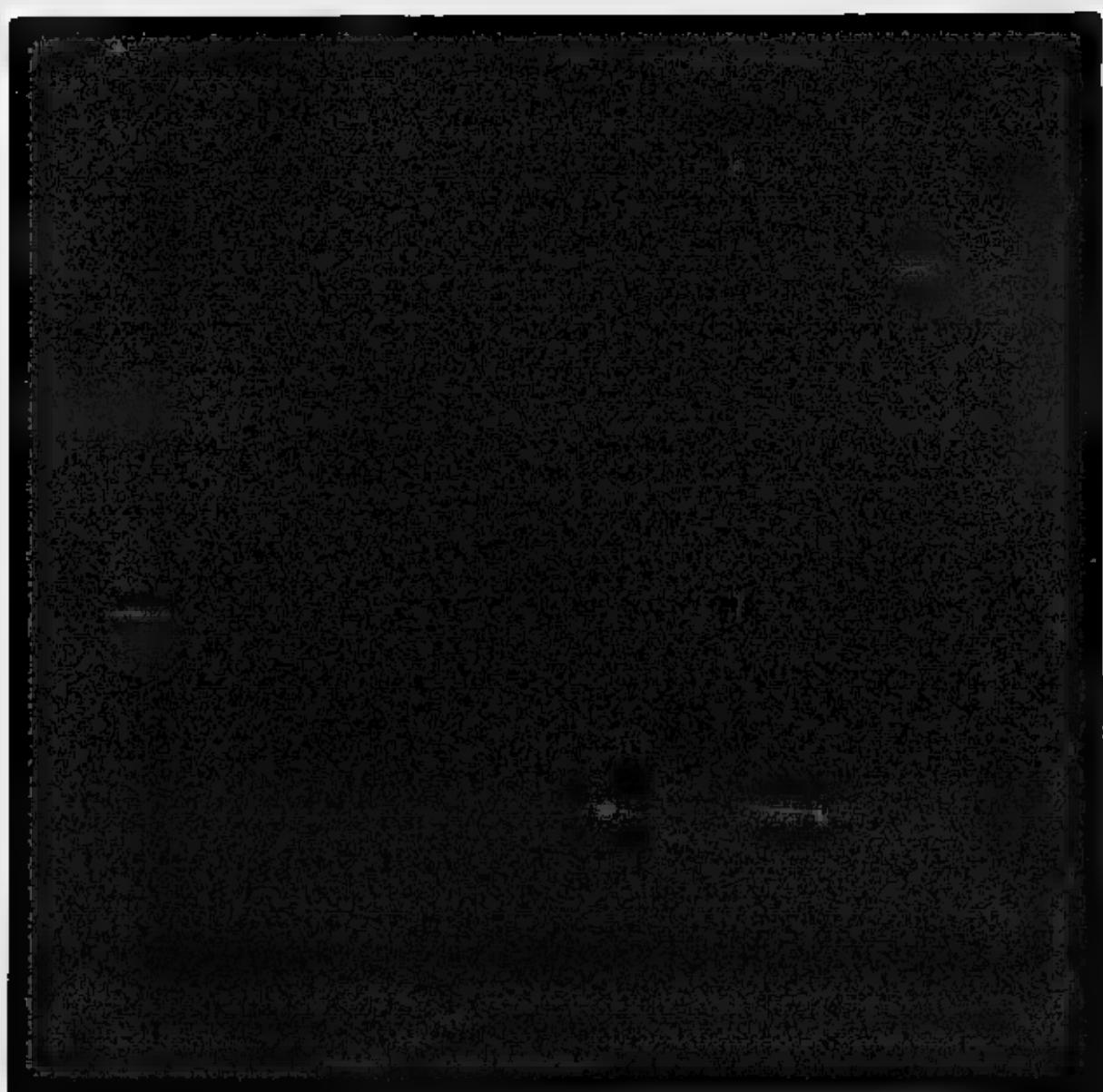


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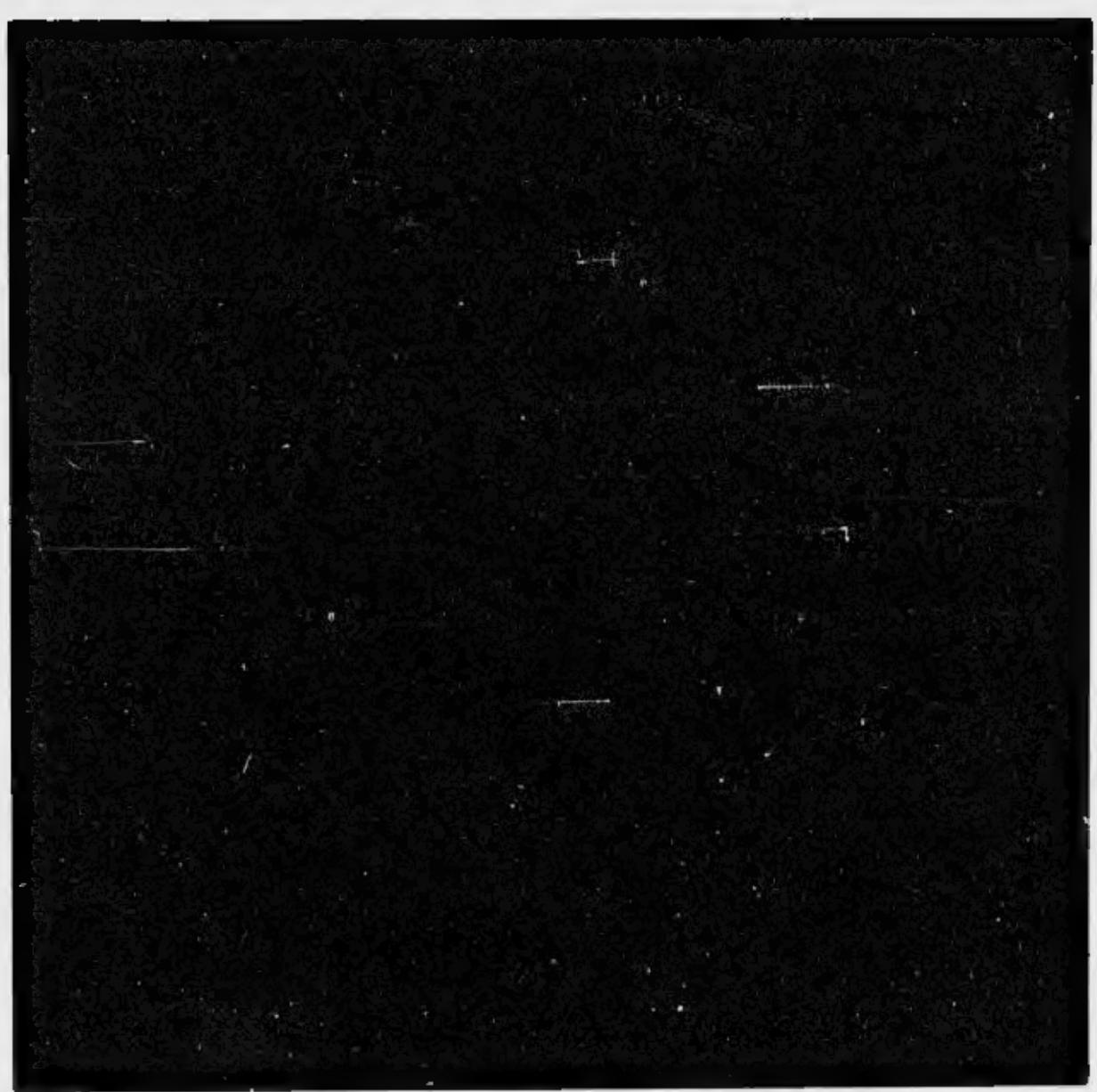


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

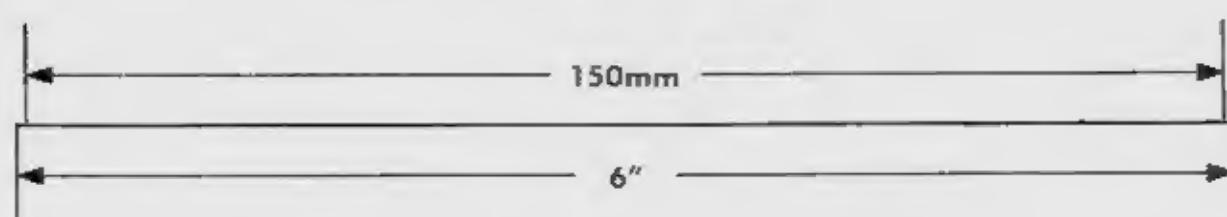
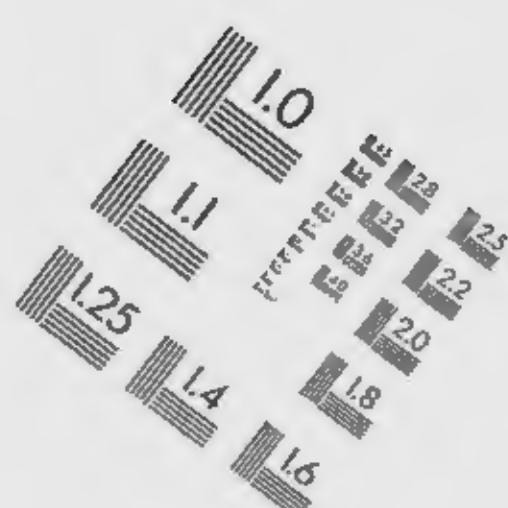
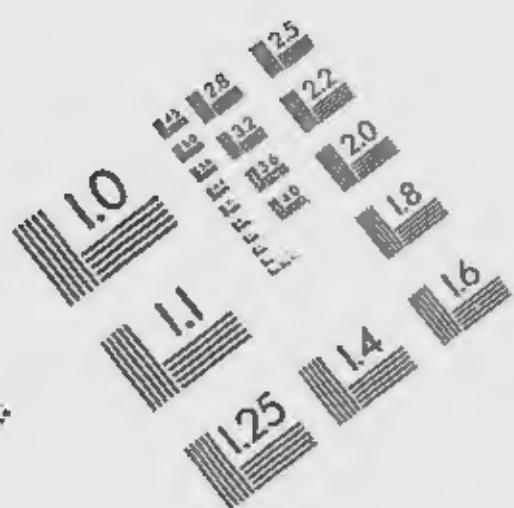
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**IMAGE EVALUATION
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